House approves national budget for 2002

STORY ON PAGE A2

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Ad congress hopes to spur economy

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

ADDRESS the Filipino consumer where he's at—directly.

This is the message of the two-day Philippine Advertising Congress that starts today in Cebu City.

The trick is to segmentize the consumer mar-

AD/ A20

Comelec exec shot dead by 'hired killers'

MOURNING the killing of Comelec Director Velma Cinco are two nuns at the Manila Doctors morgue while a WPD operative starts probing yet another brutal crime in the city.

NBI eyes infighting within poll body

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Blanche S. Rivera

THE NEWLY appointed public relations director of the Commission on Elections was gunned down yesterday morning in Sta. Ana, Manila in front of her son and sister. Police investigators and Comelec officials are looking at internal wrangling inside the election body as a possible motive for the fatal ambush.

Velma Cinco, Comelec director for education and information (EID), died from multiple gunshot wounds in the head and body after two motorcycle-riding men ambushed her at the corner of Eden and Pedro Gil streets in Sta. Ana, said investigator Solomon Bataller Jr. of the Western Police District. Cinco was 62. *(See profile on Page A20.)*

Her son Carlo, 37, and her sister Marian S. Jayme, 47, were with her in Cinco's red Kia Pride with license plate TDR 779 when the gunman peppered her car with bullets. Investigators later said a 9 mm pistol had been used.

Carlo was hit on his right shoulder and brought to the Philippine General Hospital while Jayme escaped unhurt, Bataller said.

"It's clear that this is a planned, treacherous, deliberate assassination. We do not only denounce it, we condemn this diabolical murder of Director Cinco," Comelec Chair

COMELEC/ A20

Strunk now a suspect; DOJ starts investigation

By Michael Lim Ubac
and TJ Burgonio

NIDA Blanca's American husband Rod Lauren Strunk is now a suspect in her murder, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

But family friends said Blanca's only child, Katherine Jones Torres, was "keeping an open mind."

Perez told reporters at a press conference that he had ordered a preliminary investigation "to ascertain the veracity" of Philip Medel Jr.'s confession that he killed Blanca on Strunk's orders.

He also said the investigation would be based on the murder complaint filed

STRUNK/ A21

Jalosjos likens fate to Nida's

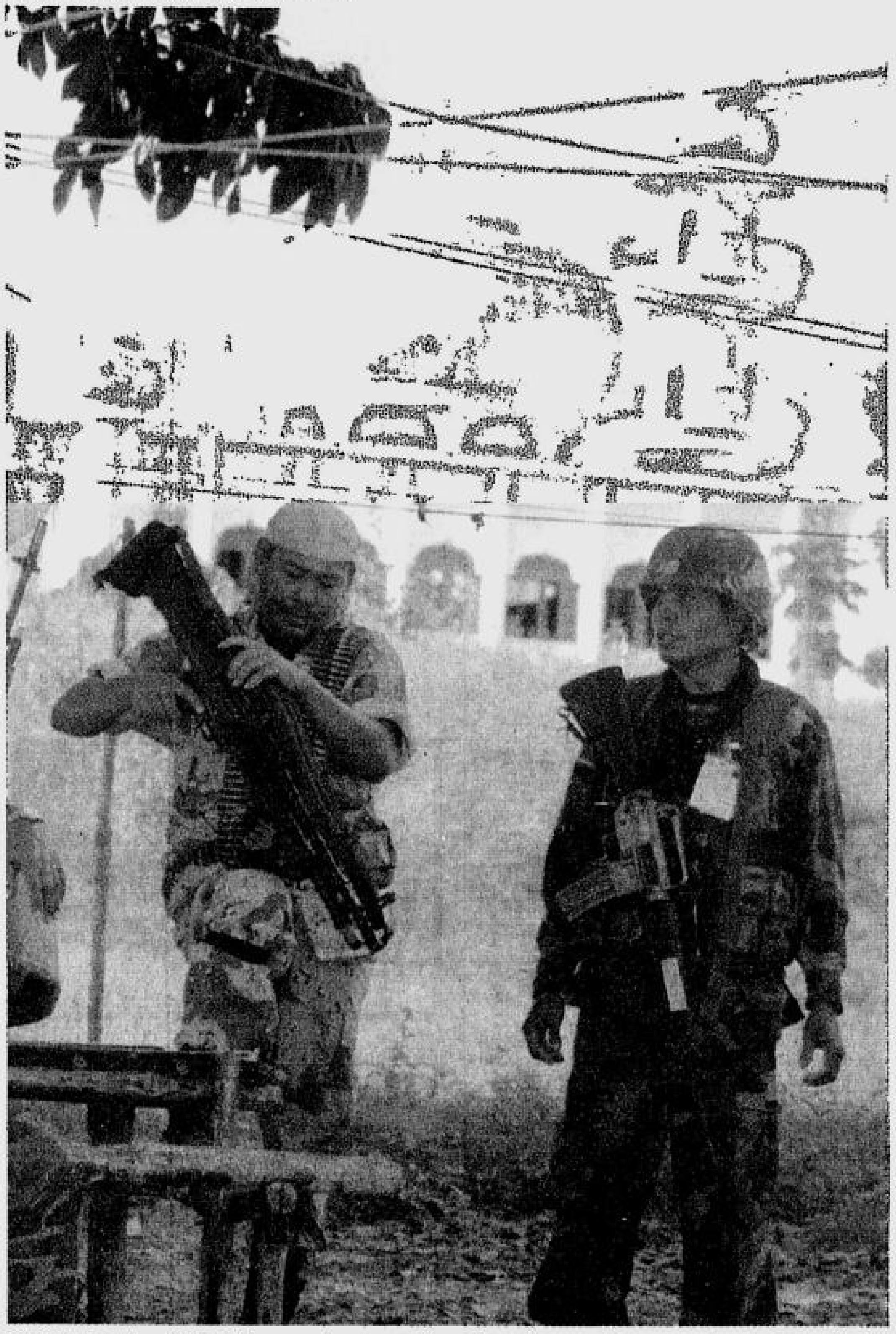
By Christian V. Esguerra
and Christine Avendaño

ZAMBOANGA del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos yesterday described the Supreme Court's affirmation of his rape conviction as "unfair" and "devoid of compassion especially (toward) a person who's serving society."

Speaking at a press conference at the National Bilibid Prisons, Jalosjos said his supporters nationwide had been sending him letters of support daily and were outraged by the tribunal's ruling. "It's harsh . . . Shocking would be an understatement," he added.

Jalosjos compared his fate with that of

JALOSJOS/ A21



WHERE is Misuari? But his men, here guarding Misuari's sprawling extension ARMM office in Kabatangan, Zamboanga City have vowed to carry on with his struggle for an independent Moro homeland.
VALHANDUMON

Nur stripped of powers but vows to press fight

By PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—Nur Misuari and his followers yesterday vowed to pursue their armed struggle for a Moro homeland, hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo stripped him of his powers as governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.

Additional combat troops were deployed to track down Misuari and remnants of his rebel group in Jolo following their revolt on Monday that left 59 people dead and 85 others wounded.

Misuari, however, was nowhere to be found after the military crushed what it described as his desperate attempt to stop the ARMM elections scheduled on Nov. 26.

Sources said the 60-year-old Misuari had fled to Malaysia, but the military officials believed he was hiding on the island.

Even as the government was preparing charges against the ARMM governor, his spokesperson said the Misuari-led faction of the Moro National Liberation Front was repudiating its 1996 peace agreement with Manila.

"The government started the war," Abdulrahman Jamasali said, claiming the Army's incursions into MNLF territory provoked the

NUR/ A20

WREATH-LAYING rites at the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, the President with daughter Luli is escorted by Maj. Gen. James Jackson.
REUTERS

GMA reaps bonanza for all-out support of US-led war vs terror

By Juan Sarmiento Jr.

WASHHINGTON (via PLDT)—Hours before meeting President George W. Bush, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Monday promised to walk "every step of the way" with the US "war on terrorism" and vowed to bring Filipino "terrorist" groups to justice.

Warming up for her White House appearance on Tuesday (12:25 a.m. Wednesday, Manila time), Ms Macapagal delivered a firm renunciation of terrorism, but called on the developed world to support nations gripped by poverty—which she referred to as the "spawning grounds" of terrorism.

Ms Macapagal noted that she was the first Southeast Asian leader to call Bush to offer condolences for the terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept.11.

Ms Macapagal's all-out support for the US-led coalition against international terrorism and her good rapport with Bush is apparently paying off.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Bush had directed the USAID to increase financial support for the Philippines.

There were also signs that Washington could reward the Philippines for its

GMA/ A20

Erap supporters threaten 'Edsa 4'

By Rocky Nazareno,
Volt Contreras
and Philip C. Tubeza

THE DAY after the Supreme Court declared the plunder law constitutional, hundreds of agitated supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada picketed the high court, ominously chanting "Edsa 4, Edsa 4," while in the Senate, a pro-Estrada legislator blasted the tribunal and said it was "politicized."

But Luis "Chavit" Singson, the man mainly responsible for Estrada's ouster, predicted that not only would Estrada remain in detention, but that former national police chief Sen. Panfilo Lacson would join him in jail.

In the Senate, opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta said Malacañang had pressured the Supreme Court into voting against Estrada's petition, and noted that the 10-4-1 decision of the court "compromised its independence." This only shows that the tribunal is now "politicized," she said.

She cited reports that Malacañang had summoned a provincial governor to seek his help in getting a relative who was a Supreme Court justice to vote against the petition. She also said there were reports that a justice was promised

ESTRADA/ A6

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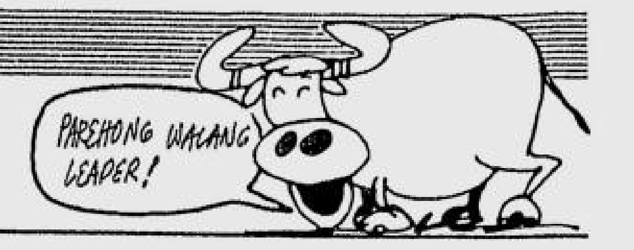
Bridal business surges in US

NEW YORK—Are engagements on the rise in America following the Sept. 11 attacks?

There aren't any statistics to prove that more people have been getting engaged recently but there is plenty of anecdotal evidence. One such proof is that bridal retailers have been experiencing a surge in sales.

The rise in business is a pleasant surprise to the $70-

BRIDAL/ A20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House OKs nat'l budget for 2002

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE HOUSE of Representatives last night approved on third and final reading the proposed P780.8 billion budget for government operations next year.

By a vote of 169-19 with no abstentions, the House approved House Bill 2840 or the proposed General Appropriations Act for 2002.

The House minority voted "no" to the budget, saying it was illegally approved on second reading on Oct. 26.

They vowed to challenge the legality of its approval before the Supreme Court.

A few members of the pro-administration coalition voted against the budget or voted with reservations over the budget priorities, particularly the P204.3 billion allocation to debt service, which eats up 26 percent of the budget.

Others objected to the large allocations for the military and police and what they felt was low spending for education, women and the poor.

Despite the rantings and ravings, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez who presided over the session, pronounced the budget bill approved with finality after a two-hour voting.

The House-approved budget is 11.6 percent or P80.9 billion higher than this year's budget which, in turn was reenacted from the previous year.

Ball in Senate's court

It would now be the Senate's turn to approve the measure.

House leaders expressed hope that the GAA would be enacted into law early next month to avoid another failure to approve a budget in time.

The minority challenged the legality of the second reading approval on Oct. 26 since they argued that the session had adjourned at midnight of Oct. 25 as stated in the joint legislative calendar of the Senate and the House.

"The position of the minority is we have to wait for the third reading approval before going to the Supreme Court so that it will be a final act," Assistant Minority Leader Carlos Lobregat said in an interview shortly before the voting took place.

Among those who voted "no" were House minority leader Carlos Padilla, Representatives Didagen Dilangalen, Gilbert Remulla, Rolex Suplico, Lala Santos, Cynthia Villar, Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, Georgilu Yumul-Hermida and Agapito Aquino. Partylist Representatives Liza Maza and Satur Ocampo also voted "no."

Dilangalen said he does not recognize the second reading approval after the adjournment of sessions on Oct. 25.

Padilla said the first approval was a farce and done "with total disregard of the rules" of the House.

"The end does not justify the means. It may indeed be a popular decision but it is not necessarily correct," Lobregat said.

Remulla said the budget bill had many deficiencies, including the relatively low allocation for education.

Legarda defends hubby in port deal

By Rocky Nazareno

FROM THE UNITED States where she is with the party of visiting President Macapagal-Arroyo, Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda has defended her husband, former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste, from alleged improprieties in the award of the P2.9-billion Batangas International Seaport project.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, Legarda said the President had even lauded her husband, "for the success of his efforts in saving" the seaport project which had been abandoned for four years.

Leviste, who sits as an alternate member in the Philippine Ports Authority, is alleged to have intervened in the award of the P2.9-billion project to a non-complying bidder.

Legarda said she was "surprised" that there should be a controversy in a project which the "political leadership of Batangas, including congressmen and the vice governor" had worked to save.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo, in fact, has commended Governor Leviste for the success of his efforts in saving the project which was about to be aborted after undue delays of four years," Legarda said in her statement.

She said the project had been delayed by "technical and legal problems."

She maintained that "the matter of the awarding of the contract was the exclusive affair of the Philippine Ports Authority."

The contract in question is for the second phase of the Batangas port development project.

The Korean-based Hanjin-Konoike joint venture, which completed the first phase of the project in 1999, had denounced in a letter to Ms Macapagal the government's decision to award the P2.9-billion contract to Shimizu/F.F. Cruz Co. Inc.

Hanjin-Kanoike alleged that Shimizu/F.F. Cruz did not comply with, among other things, the 1,080-day construction period and equipment requirements.

The PPA board, in awarding the project to Shimizu, only affirmed a decision made by the previous board under the Estrada administration.

Drug raps filed vs 3 Sinos

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has filed drug charges against a Manila-based Chinese man and two associates who were caught in possession of 334 kilos of shabu worth P668 million in San Narciso, Zambales, on Nov. 15.

Charged before the Iba (Zambales) Regional Trial Court were Cai Hong Ze, alias Edwin Hong Chua, believed to be a Manila-based drug lord, and William Chua and Henry Tamayo Tan, alias Eddie Tan, all Chinese nationals.

The charges were recommended by state prosecutor Pablo Formaran, who found probable cause to charge the three with violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972.

The Philippine National Police Narcotics Group and National Bureau of Investigation agents arrested the three Chinese at 6:30 a.m. on Nov. 15 while they were transporting the drugs in two Toyota Revos.

The shabu was believed to be part of another shipment dropped off the coast of Dasol, Pangasinan, earlier by five Chinese men who were also arrested.

"When the drugs were examined by the forensic chemist of Zambales province, and later by PNP experts at Camp Crame, it was found to be positive for methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu," Formaran said.

Narcgroup Director Efren Fernandez said the drugs had been packed in 21 hog feed sacks. The haul was transferred onto motorboats from a ship that quickly left the area and entered international waters, he said.

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TAKEN ABACK BY COUP TRY

Drilon rushing home

BY R. NAZARENO AND C. BALANA

ALARMED by reports of a failed Senate coup, Senate President Franklin Drilon is reportedly rushing back from the United States where he had joined the official delegation of President Maca-pagal-Arroyo who is on a working visit there.

In a press statement, Drilon admitted that "he was taken aback by the call of opposition Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta on Monday for a reorganization of the chamber."

Drilon said he was representing the country in an important diplomatic mission.

"I really did not expect the minority to do this thing while I was away," he said.

"I was hoping that the minority would abide by its pledge to set aside politicking for a least a year so we could focus our attention on the pressing problems of the country," the Senate President said.

'Leaderless'

Claiming that the Senate had become "leaderless" with Drilon away, Oreta moved to have all positions in the chamber declared vacant, calling in effect for the ouster of Drilon.

She obtained the support of all minority senators except for Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. who was part of the presidential delegation in the US and Sen. Blas Ople who was out of the country.

In his statement, Drilon appealed to his Senate colleagues to stop politicking for the country's sake.

"Our people are tired of politics. They want us to focus on how we can provide them jobs, secure their safety and deliver basic social services," Drilon said.

Above all else

"We are not senators of parties, of regions and certainly not of our own persons but senators of the Republic, obliged by our privileged positions to put national interest above all else," he said.

"If we cannot work together, neither can we expect the people to come together," he said.

Drilon said the minority move came just a few days before the start of an economic workshop for senators that he had organized so the majority and minority in the chamber can arrive at a common legislative agenda for next year.

He said the workshop would have come up with remedial legislation on how to prop up the economy amid a global economic slowdown made worse by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the US.

Drilon is expected to be back in time for the workshop set for Nov. 24 and 25 at the Clark economic zone in Pampanga.

Also yesterday, Senate Majority Leader Manuel Villar denied that the Senate was "leaderless" as he had taken over the Senate President's post in Drilon's absence.

Villar said there was nothing wrong with the Senate President being out of the country during Senate sessions as long as the one who is next in line was prepared to assume the post.

He also defended Drilon's absence, saying it was the first time that Drilon had joined a presidential trip since becoming Senate President this year.

'Nothing serious'

But while Villar dismissed Oreta's move as "nothing serious," he said she had a point when she chided Senate officials and key Cabinet members for joining the President on her trip to the US.

Villar said the President should also limit her foreign trips in order for her to concentrate on the pressing problems of the country.

Oreta said that the attacks by the Nur Misuari faction of the Moro National Liberation Front and the sharp decline in the country's trade surplus this year underscored the urgency for Malacañang to shape up.

She stressed that she had not meant to stage a Senate coup because she was fully aware that the opposition did not have the numbers.

"It (the privileged speech) was delivered to make a political statement aimed at jolting Malacañang and pro-administration legislators who appear to be oblivious to the gravity of the problems plaguing the country," she said.

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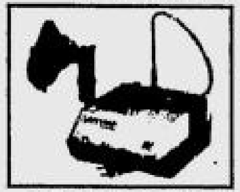

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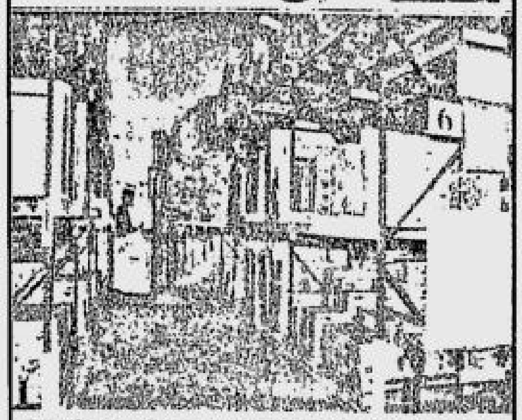

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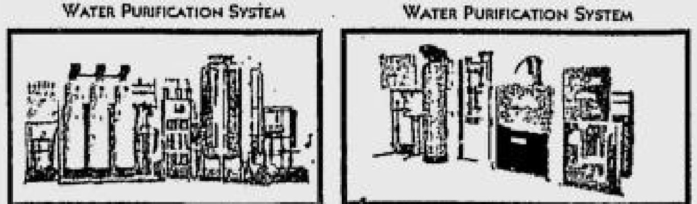

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Solons seek disclosure of secret GMA-Bush deal

By Juliet L. Javellana

HOUSE leaders yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to clarify the reported arrangement with the United States on the use of its former military bases in the country.

Majority Floor Leader Neptali Gonzales II and Assistant Minority Leader Carlos Lobregat said the clarification is necessary because of sketchy and conflicting statements about the nature of the proposed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement with the US.

They said the terms of the MLSA might require the approval of a treaty by the Senate.

The House leaders made the suggestion in the wake of conflicting statements between the President and Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., concurrent foreign affairs secretary.

The President, who is in a working visit to the US, denied that she was considering a secret pact with US President George W. Bush which would practically allow the US to use its former bases in the country.

But Guingona confirmed that a new military treaty with the US is in the works.

Guingona was referring to the MLSA, which according to foreign affairs insiders is similar to the controversial Acquisition and Cross Service Agreement, which had been dropped during the Ramos administration due to opposition from many sectors.

Gonzales suggested that the President convene the National Security Council to discuss the issue.

NSC meeting

"Perhaps upon the return of the President (from the US), it would be best for her to convene the NSC so that she can make the necessary briefing so that we will be guided accordingly," Gonzales told the INQUIRER.

Gonzales said that when the President gave her administration's all-out support to the US-led coalition against terrorism, the condition was this support would be within the provisions of the Constitution.

"Now, if there will be stationing of foreign troops here, this may require a treaty ratified by the Senate," Gonzales said.

"We have to determine what kind of arrangement they are trying to enter into because as of now, we only have sketchy information about it," Gonzales said.

Lobregat said the Vice President and the military officials should explain "what are included in that package" of the MLSA.

"Since we have an existing mutual defense pact (with the US), whatever arrangements are being worked out they are okay as long as these are within the existing treaty," Lobregat said.

"But if they want to work out another treaty, this should be spelled out," Lobregat said.

Lobregat, who is from Zamboanga City, said he is in favor of the US extending support to the Philippine military especially against the Abu Sayyaf.

"But let's do it in the proper manner," Lobregat said.

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NSAT, NEAT scrapped

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco yesterday abolished the NEAT and NSAT achievement tests, replacing them with "diagnostic tests" for selected pilot schools.

Roco said the National Elementary Achievement Test (NEAT) given to Grade 6 students, and the National Secondary Achievement Test (NSAT) given to fourth year high school students were not necessary, since these are not required to enter high school or college.

But diagnostic tests for mathematics, reading and science that would be given to Grade 3 pupils and first year high school students, which would replace the NEAT and NSAT, would help in remedying the learning gap of students, Roco said.

The new diagnostic tests are now being developed by the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC).

The students who took the diagnostic tests would again be tested when they reach Grade 5 and third year high school.

"This way, we are able to track the progress of the students," Roco said.

Roco explained that the advantage of these diagnostic tests over the NEAT and NSAT is that their findings could still be used to improve the learning gaps of the students before they graduate from grade school or high school.

"The tests serve as feedback to the teacher, field officials and the curriculum developers and not as a requirement for passing a subject," he said.

Roco said that students need not review for the diagnostic exams so that the tests could accurately gauge their learning in the classroom.

He said that the choice of schools and the timing of the tests would not be announced "to remove any pressure from the schools and to avoid the abuses of the past."

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BIGWIG IN BASILAN

AFP chief leads troops vs Abu

ISABELA, Basilan—Armed Forces chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva here yesterday to oversee troops trying to rescue two Americans held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf.

"Our forces are intact and going after them," Villanueva told local dzBB radio prior to a briefing on the hunt for American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap in Basilan.

Officials said the fact he came to Basilan instead of going to nearby Jolo island, where soldiers on Monday suppressed a bloody revolt by a group led by the governor of an autonomous Muslim region, signaled an "impending breakthrough" in efforts to free the hostages.

A total of 59 people, most of them Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Nur Misuari's men, were killed in clashes after the rebels attacked security posts in Jolo.

Some 5,000 soldiers are engaged in operations to track down the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Col. Renato Miranda, a marine Brigade commander in Basilan, said he was made to understand from local contacts, that negotiations were underway for the safe release of the hostages.

VILLANUEVA

"There are a lot of groups trying to negotiate. There is an ongoing negotiation. But the guidance of the chief of staff is the safe rescue of the Burnhams," Miranda said.

He did not identify the negotiating parties or say what stage the talks are at present.

Some groups were sending provisions to the Burnhams, like reading glasses, clothes and food, he said.

"Details cannot be discussed but there is a big probability that we can get the US couple by Christmas. Our problem now is the terrain but they are still in the forested area," Miranda said.

The guerrillas would have problems getting out of the area due to the tight security, he said.

Last Friday seven Filipino hostages were recovered unharmed by pursuing troops, leaving the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas with the three remaining hostages.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is on a working visit to the United States, said she was "very hopeful" the others would be rescued before her talks with President George W. Bush on Tuesday.

The Burnham couple and another American, Peru-born Guillermo Sobero, were seized along with 17 Filipinos from a resort in May.

The Abu Sayyaf freed most of the hostages allegedly after ransom payments, but snatched more people as they fled across Basilan.

Sobero was beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf in June, while more than a dozen Filipino captives were also murdered by the rebels. *AFP*

Fr. Beppe: Still alive but not well

OZAMIZ CITY—Italian missionary Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni is alive but is not well, the military said on Monday.

Col. Estrellito Romero, deputy chief of the Task Force Giuseppe, the team tasked to recover the kidnapped priest, said based on accounts from their informers, Pierantoni is being moved in and out of at least four coastal towns of Lanao del Sur.

Brig. Gen. Santiago Prejido, commander of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade based in Lanao del Sur, said Pierantoni or Fr. Beppe has grown weak and has to be carried around by his captors.

"Our emissaries positively noticed him (being) transferred from one place to another," Romero said.

Prejido said the kidnapped priest had been sighted in the towns of Sultan Gumander, Malabang, Kapatagan Dos, and parts of Pualas.

He, however, admitted that they are having difficulty pinpointing the exact location of Fr. Beppe because the kidnappers are very mobile.

"They always move. The last time Fr. Beppe was seen was that he was being carried by some of his kidnappers. He was weak," Prejido said.

Shortly after he was snatched by at least 10 armed men inside the Dimataling Parish Church in Zamboanga del Sur, the military said it received reports that Fr. Beppe had contracted amoeba.

The Pentagon, led by Norhan Amil alias commander Ramsey, was also reported to have sent a note demanding a huge ransom for the priest's freedom.

But Bishop Zacarias Jimenez said the clergy has not received any note from the kidnappers.

"They have not even contacted us to inform us how is Fr. Beppe now," Jimenez told the INQUIRER.

On Sunday, the military mistakenly announced that the Italian missionary had been released.

It later backtracked after a corpse belonging to a Caucasian was found in Pisaan Island, off Dinas town in Zamboanga del Sur.

Members of the clergy led by Jimenez went to Pisaan to identify the cadaver.

"It was not him," Jimenez later said. ***Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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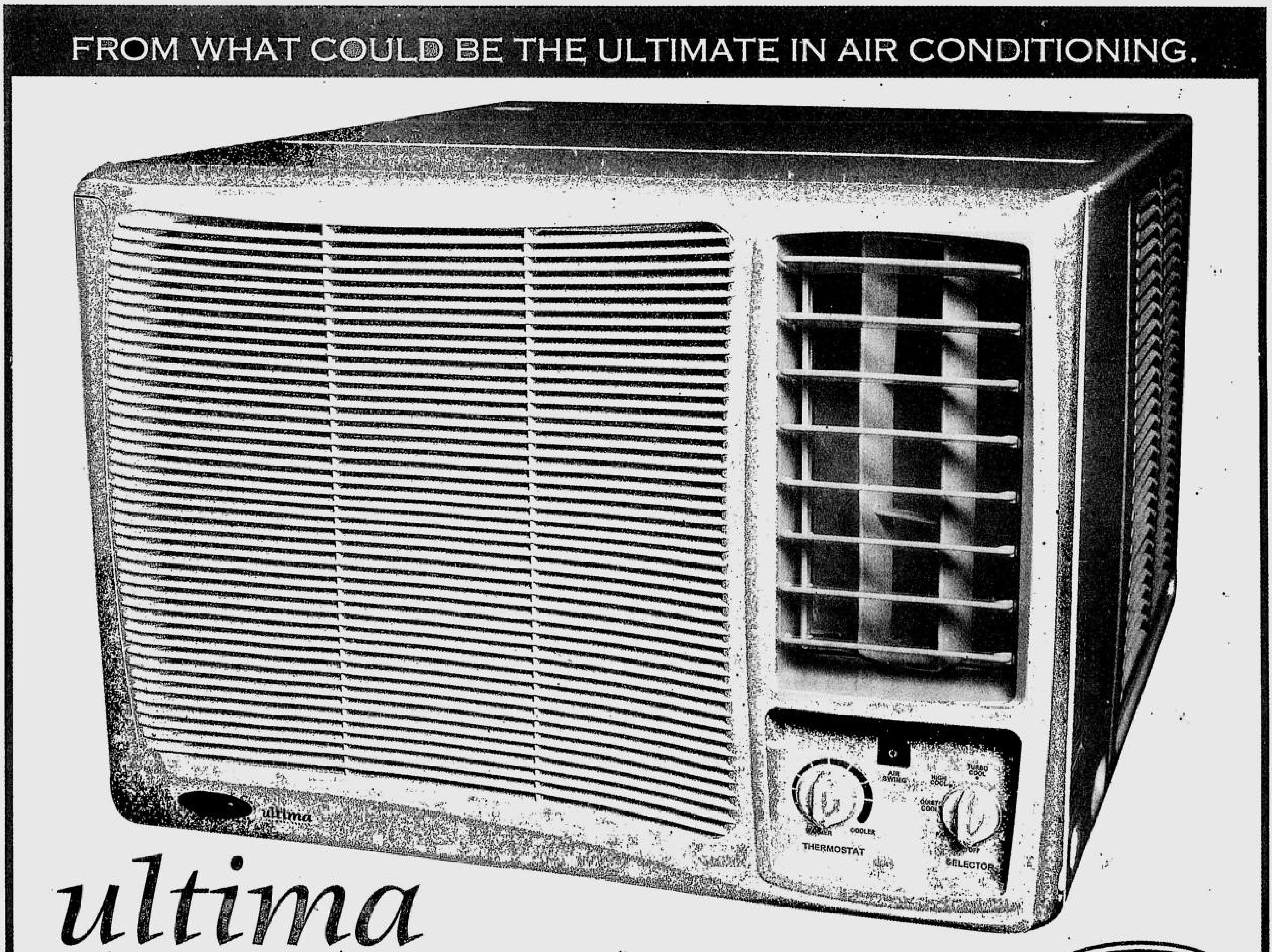


PROTESTING the Supreme Court ruling on the constitutionality of the Plunder Law, Estrada supporters rally outside the court. REUTERS

Erap supporters threaten 'Edsa 4'

(From page A1)

the post of Chief Justice Hilario Davide once Davide retires, and that another justice, who is up for retirement, was offered an ambassadorial post.

"It is disappointing to hear speculations that the Supreme Court, one of the country's most respected and trusted institutions, has allowed itself to be politicized," she said.

But presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao the other day had already denied that the Palace pressured Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares to convince his sister Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago to vote either way. Santiago, an Estrada appointee, voted in favor of the ex-President's petition.

Appeal readied

Estrada's legal team yesterday began scrutinizing the 33-page decision.

Former University of the Philippines College of Law dean Pacifico Agabin, chief defense counsel for Estrada's plunder case, said his team would file a motion for reconsideration shortly.

He said he was hoping the justices would hear their case "much more dispassionately" and that they would focus on the legal questions "instead of delving into the personalities involved."

"There are intimations of some kind of a crusading zeal on the part of the justices," Agabin explained. "They are in general on (such) a crusade against graft and corruption (that) they let their zeal overrun their insight."

"They should concentrate on the validity of the law on its face, instead of delving into the personalities involved in this case, or into the guilt or innocence of the petitioner (Estrada)," he said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

In their motion for reconsideration, he said, "we will submit that the Court committed errors of law . . . by citing obsolete American cases," for one.

The motion will also question "the approach used by the Court in determining the constitutionality of the law," he said.

Lonely Christmas

Estrada and his son Jinggoy, who is a co-accused, will be "spending a pretty lonely Christmas, that's the sad part," defense lawyer Raymond Fortun said on television.

"I would think that anybody in a position like this would not be very happy about the outcome," said Fortun.

"I still like to be hopeful about our ability to obtain a reconsideration or to move for an overturning of this particular decision," the lawyer said.

He said there might be provisions in the ruling that could work to the advantage of the defendant.

"I'm specifically thinking about the amount of evidence needed to prove the crime of plunder," he said. "It's possible the court may have clarified how the law is to be interpreted."

At the Sandiganbayan, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada asked for the court's permission to be excused again from today's 1 p.m. hearing. His lawyers said he still needed more bed rest after being downed by the flu. He had failed to appear in Monday's hearing for the same reason.

Protest rally

A crowd estimated to number between a low of 600 and a high of 3,000 converged on Padre Faura street in front of the Supreme Court to protest the Monday ruling.

Carrying placards that read "Junk the plunder law" and chanting Estrada's nickname "Erap, Erap," the protesters, many of whom belonged to the Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice, forced traffic to a standstill.

The group taunted the outnumbered riot police, who formed a phalanx with their shields and truncheons to prevent the mob from storming the court.

The UMDJ leader hinted that a mass uprising similar to the so-called Edsa 3 might be in the offing. On May 1, pro-Estrada supporters had stormed Malacañang in a violent attempt to force President Macapagal-Arroyo out.

"The people no longer expect justice from the present dispensation and the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court will not judicially correct its political decisions, the highest Court of the masses shall decide their fate," said Ver Eustaquio, UMDJ spokesperson.

"The masses will again summon the unity and strength it displayed in Edsa Tres to stop mob rule, injustice, hypocrisy in the highest order, organized lies and political harassment," Estaquio added.

He denounced the alleged pressure the administration exerted on the Supreme Court justices.

"Ms Macapagal's reported pressure and bribery attempts being exerted (on) our SC magistrates for them to declare the legality of the plunder law is a blatant violation of our Constitution," he said.

At about noon, the crowd transferred to Taft Avenue. They occupied the northbound lane and caused a traffic gridlock on the major thoroughfare, in the area between Manila City Hall and Quirino Avenue.

Another UMJP leader, Arnold Obina, said Estrada supporters were ready to mass again to air their grievances.

"We believe that power was unjustly taken from us. We are just taking it back, by different means," Obina said.

Chavit's prediction

Singson, whose "jueteng" exposé led to Estrada's ouster, said the jailing of the disgraced president and his close friend Lacson was "imminent," one for allegedly plundering the economy, and the other for his supposed involvement in criminal activities.

"I'm very sure they'll be jailed," he told reporters at the Manila Yacht Club yesterday morning.

Singson was reacting to Lacson's accusation that he and his relatives were still in charge of jueteng operations in Ilocos even after Estrada's fall from power.

In a privilege speech last week, Lacson claimed that jueteng operations in the province yielded around P2 million in daily gross revenue. The amount allegedly went to Singson's brother Jose "Bonito" and son Ronald.

The former Ilocos Sur governor yesterday told Lacson to simply file charges against those allegedly involved in jueteng "if he has evidence."

"Obviously, he 's just making all these unfounded revelations to cover for his many crimes," Singson told the INQUIRER. "He's afraid that he would meet Erap in prison."

Trial's end

Lawyer Leonard de Vera of the Equal Justice for All Movement said that with the high court's ruling, it was possible for Estrada's plunder case to end by October next year—if the Sandiganbayan agreed to hasten it.

"Under the law, there should be a speedy trial for heinous crimes. But that is not being done in this case," De Vera said yesterday, the anniversary of the filing of the plunder charges against Estrada.

The former President faces either life imprisonment or the death penalty if he is proven guilty.

De Vera said the trial could be speeded up if the Sandiganbayan held hearings three days a week, morning and afternoon; if Congress approved the law allowing the Ombudsman to tap private prosecutors, and if the Ombudsman avoided bungling the case.

If these conditions are met, he said, the trial might be finished by October despite the defense lawyers' "105 frivolous motions."

"I'm confident we can finish this within six to eight months. We can finish it before GMA's term ends," De Vera said.

He also called on the authorities to transfer Estrada and his son Jinggoy to a regular jail.

He pointed out that the two men's lawyer, Edward Serapio, was in a regular jail while the father and son were detained in air-conditioned hospital rooms.

Senators' reactions

Sen. Joker Arroyo, the lead prosecutor in the impeachment trial against Estrada, said the court's ruling "came as expected."

Arroyo helped unearth the so-called "Jose Velarde" account, allegedly the repository of ill-gotten wealth of the deposed President.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara conceded that any motion for reconsideration that would be filed by Estrada's lawyers might be futile.

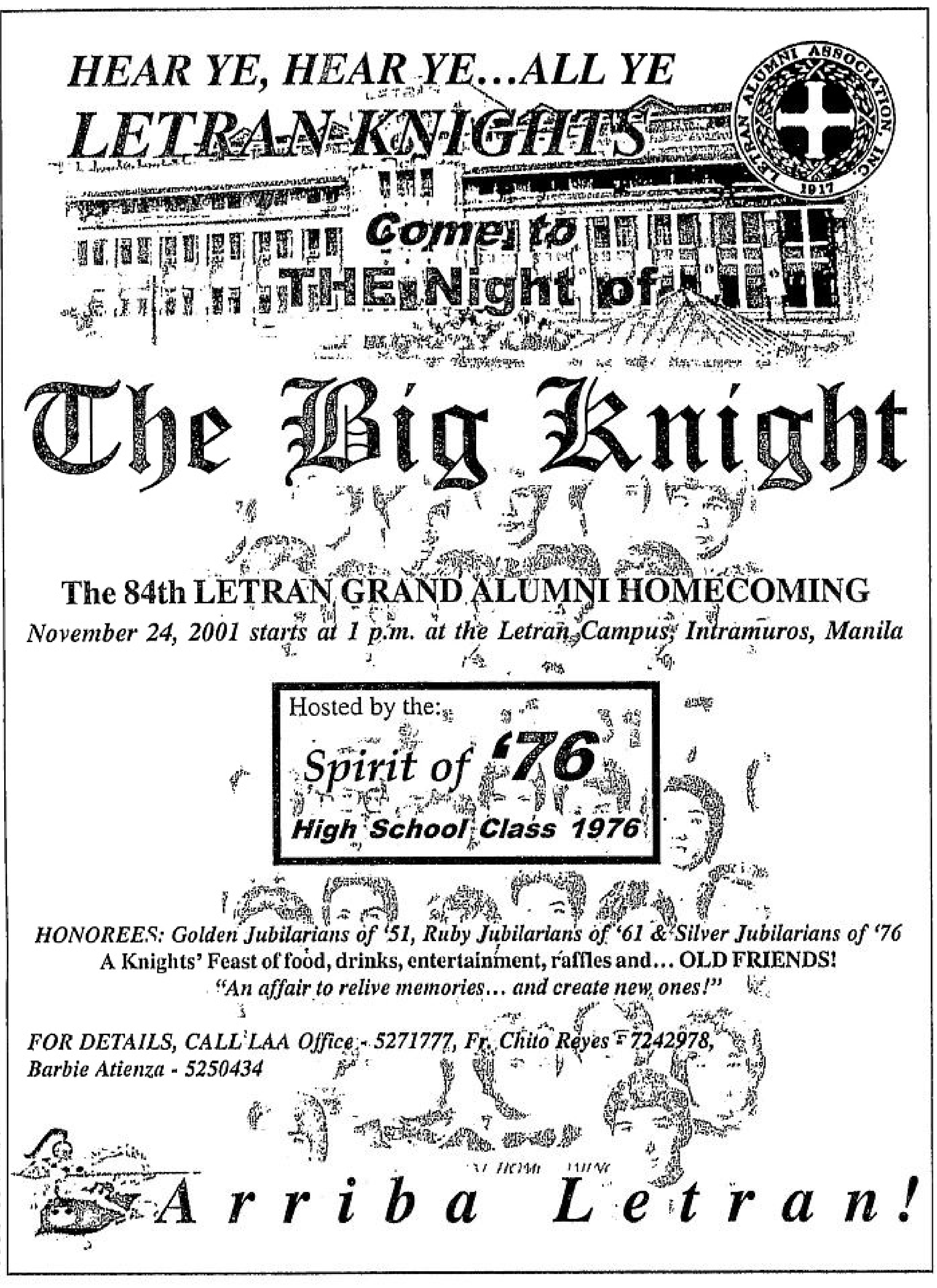
"Its really difficult to overturn a law and declare it unconstitutional," Angara said.

"I think the Supreme Court followed that traditional rule of the strong presumption of (a law's) constitutionality," he added.

But Angara stressed that Malacañang should "explain to the people" whether reports that it had exerted pressure on the High Tribunal were true or not.

The former first lady, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito said that her husband had told her "it would be better that he (were) directly brought to Muntinlupa (to the national penitentiary)."

"He's so frustrated that he said that it would be better to bring him directly to Muntinlupa since he thinks (Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Anacleto) Badoy has already prejudged his case," she told Senate reporters. Badoy chairs the Sandiganbayan third division conducting the plunder trial. ***With reports from Christian V. Esguerra and AFP***



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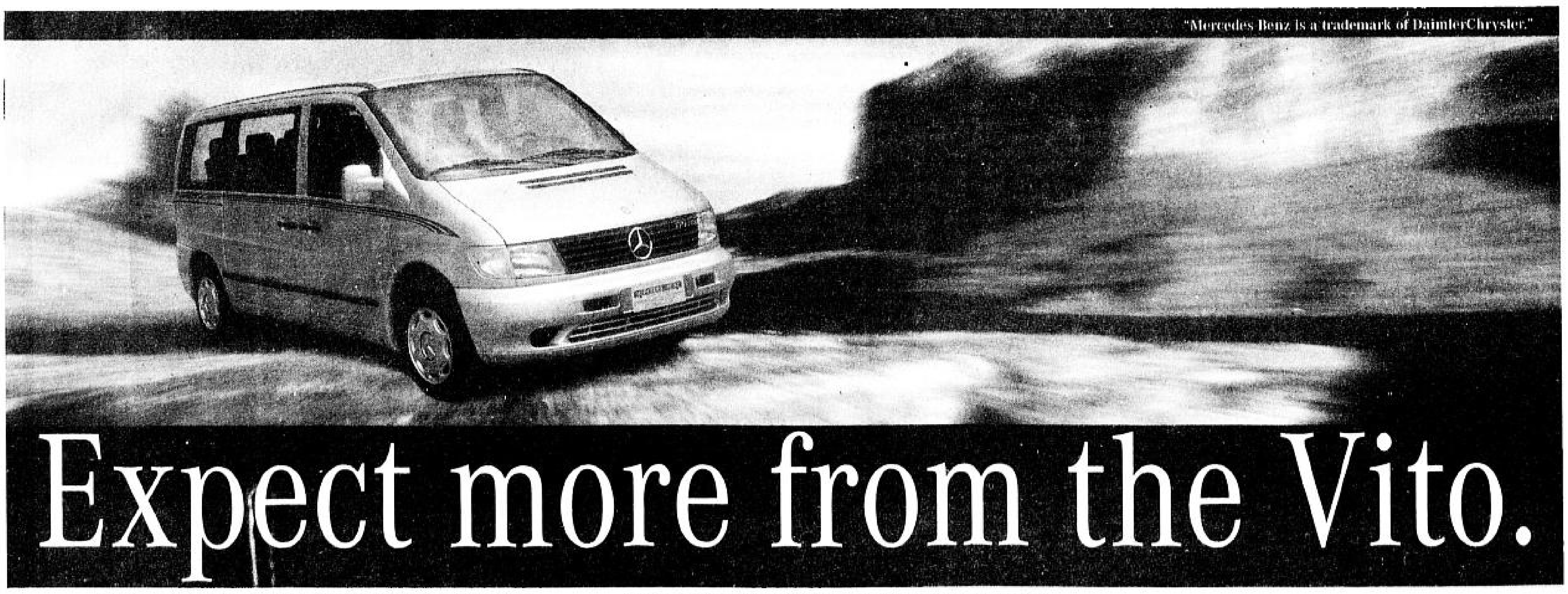

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Reds agree to new round of peace talks

THE POLITICAL arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines said yesterday it had agreed to hold fresh talks with the government in Norway in December after political assassinations stymied their last meeting.

The government halted the last round of talks in Oslo in June with the National Democratic Front, the party's political arm, after the CPP's armed wing, the New People's Army, killed former Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

The NDF said in a statement that the two sides had agreed during an informal meeting last week in the Netherlands to meet in Norway.

"The schedule of the next round of formal talks (is) Dec. 10 to Dec. 14, 2001 in Oslo, Norway, and the signing in this regard of a joint statement (was) dated Nov. 14, 2001," the statement, dated Nov. 19, said.

The NDF statement made no mention of a previous government demand that the communists reject political assassinations.

But it said the two sides would also discuss economic and social reforms, as well as release of prisoners.

The government last June declared an "immediate recess" of the peace talks to protest the killing of Aguinaldo, a controversial former military colonel described by the NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni as "a sadistic violator of human rights who was rendered just punishment for his crimes against the people."

The government has insisted that the arrest, trial and prosecution of human rights violators was its sole prerogative.

In late October, government peace negotiator Eduardo Ermita said the resumption of the talks had been imperiled by the killing of three people, including a Laguna town mayor, which police blamed on the communists.

The NPA, which has been fighting since 1969 to establish a Marxist government in this country, has launched a series of fresh attacks.

The NPA engaged in its bloodiest fighting in a decade with government troops during an ambush at the weekend in Compostela Valley in which 18 soldiers were killed.

An NPA group had burned down the telecommunications facilities of Dole Phil., Philcom, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Liberty Telecom in the same area on Nov. 12.

Last week, the rebels torched 10 communication transmission centers in Central Luzon belonging to the Globe, Smart and Piltel telecoms firms.

The telecom firms have reportedly refused to pay the "revolutionary tax" demanded by the rebels.

Government officials have warned that the 11,600-member NPA was resurgent as the military has been preoccupied with the Moro separatist movements in Muslim Mindanao.

The government and the NDF have been holding peace talks on and off for the past six years to try to end a 32-year insurgency, which has killed more than 40,000 people. *Reuters*

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New witness says Alvarez 'called the shots'

By Abigail L. Ho

A NEW witness has surfaced to bolster a P76-million plunder case against Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, but the yet-to-be-confirmed Cabinet member dismissed the new witness as having "nothing substantial that would affect our defense."

In a nine-page affidavit filed with the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday, Wintrack Builders Inc. engineer Reynaldo Libutan said Alvarez was the one "calling the shots" for the contractor.

"The president was not presiding (over) the meetings because actually it was (then) Congressman Alvarez who was calling the shots for Wintrack Builders Inc. The others were only yes men," Libutan said in his affidavit.

Wintrack was one of the subcontractors for the excavation and site preparations at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3. Alvarez's wife, Emelita, had a 30-percent stake in the company before her husband joined the Cabinet.

Libutan said part of his job at Wintrack was to prepare cost estimates and analyses for Wintrack during the pre-construction stages. He added that Alvarez was the one who instructed him to do the estimates and costings for the project.

These estimates were then passed on to the then congressman. He allegedly made his own "overpriced" suggestions on the amounts that Libutan estimated.

One of the annexes to Libutan's affidavit was a House of Representatives stationery from the Alvarez's office as representative of the first district of Davao del Norte. Libutan said it contained Alvarez's cost suggestions.

Alvarez denied this and said it was very easy for anyone to get a sheet of his office stationery.

"It's not even my handwriting. Besides, all the evidence he submitted with his affidavit were unsigned. Being a lawyer, I know what is damaging and what is not. They have nothing substantial that would affect our defenses," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

The P76-million plunder case was filed by the MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators (Maso) on Sept. 10. Since then, Alvarez said they had just been waiting for the Ombudsman's resolution of the case.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 21, 2001
Presentation of Mary

1st Reading: Zec 2:14-17
Gospel: Mt 12:46-50

While Jesus was still talking to the people, his mother and his brothers wanted to speak to him and they waited outside. So someone said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are just outside; they want to speak with you."

Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is for me brother, sister, or mother."

Commentary

The family of Jesus is described as outside, wanting to speak to him. For Jesus, his disciples are his true family. Spiritual affinity ranks higher than physical kinship. Who is a disciple? The one who does the will of the Father in heaven. We are disciples if we put our entire trust in Jesus and his word. And then we belong to his true family. Note, however, that while Jesus calls us his brothers and sisters, he never introduces himself as our brother. Our relationship to Jesus is not symmetrical. We are not told to call him our brother. It is a new kind of family from above. Experience it among ourselves.

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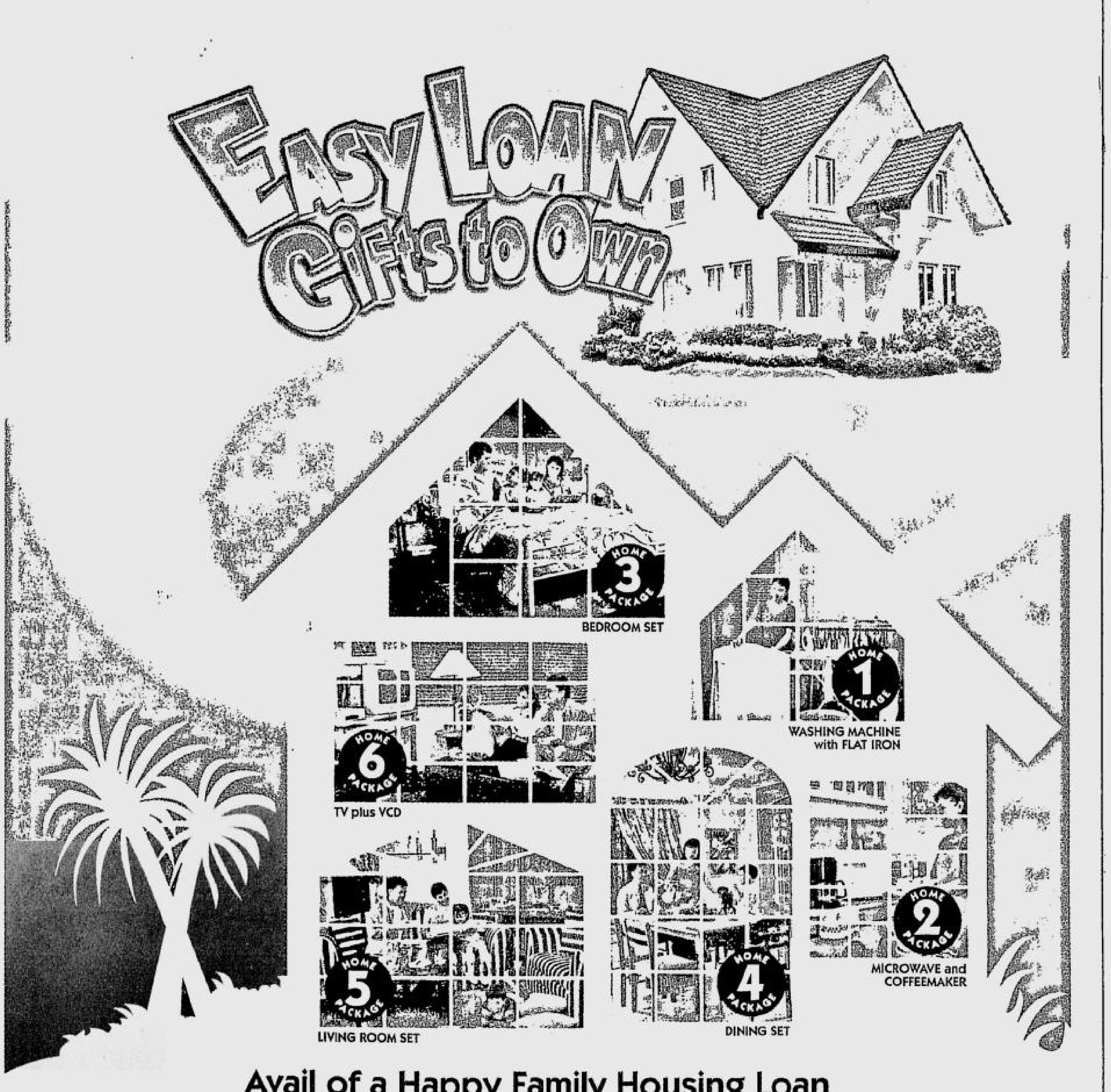

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Misuari's new war

EDITORIAL

MORO rebels loyal to Nur Misuari launched almost simultaneous surprise attacks on four military installations in Jolo early Monday morning and got the surprise of their lives when government troops fought back like they had been waiting in ambush. After a relatively successful first attack on a military outpost in Indanan, Sulu that saw three Army Scout Rangers killed, the other engagements ended in a virtual rout for the rebels, going by military accounts. Only one other soldier was killed later that day, while the rebels counted 48 dead as night fell. Seven civilians were also killed by mortar fired by the rebels, the military said.

Most of the dead were found in the periphery of the Philippine Army's 104th Infantry Brigade headquarters in Jolo. Some 200 Moro National Liberation Front fighters tried to overrun the brigade headquarters but found the government troops prepared to repulse any attack. An Army spokesperson said the troops took a "very good defensive position" following reports that Misuari's forces had linked up with the Abu Sayyaf, the notorious bandit group that has terrorized tourists, Christian missionaries and even plain folks by engaging in kidnapping and torturing and beheading some of their hostages.

And what is it that Misuari and his loyal troops are fighting for this time? Abdurahman Jamasali, a Misuari aide, said the attacks were meant to stop the holding of elections for various positions in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao scheduled on Nov. 26. Misuari, the incumbent ARMM governor, wants to keep the post but he is not standing for reelection.

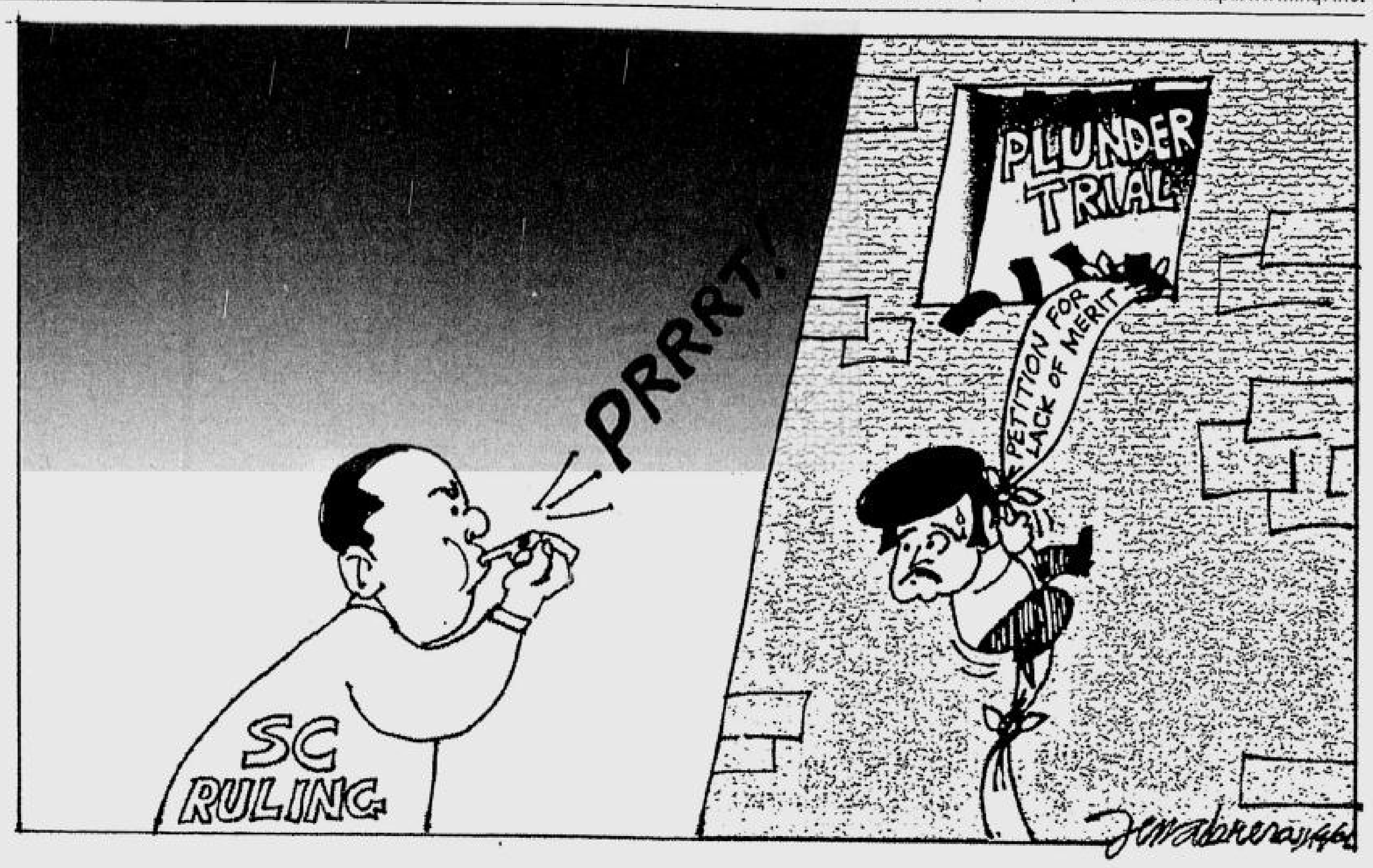
Obviously Misuari has become addicted to power and all the perks and privileges of high public office. As ARMM governor and chair of the Southern Philippine Council for Peace and Development, he not only wielded more powers than provincial governors but also had control over the disbursement of billions of pesos in government funds and foreign assistance for the development of the country's poorest region. And he was living like an oil sheik, blocking off several rooms in five-star hotels for his large retinue whenever he came to Manila—all paid for with government funds, of course.

To keep all this, however, Misuari had to win reelection. And that was an impossibility. As early as June last year, the four governors of the provinces comprising the ARMM—all of them Misuari's former MNLF comrades—were demanding that elections be held so that a new ARMM governor would be elected. They said the postponement of the elections was only prolonging the sufferings of the people in the ARMM because very few programs and projects were being undertaken for their benefit by Misuari. In May this year, Misuari was booted out as MNLF chair by the top leadership of the MNLF. The following month he was stripped of the SPCPD chairmanship. And a few months later, the administration announced that it was fielding as its candidate for ARMM governor the new MNLF chair, Parouk Hussin.

Malacañang tried to appease Misuari by offering him an ambassadorial post, but he would have none of it. For him, it was either the ARMM governorship or nothing. That position had been handed to him on a silver platter in 1996 by the Ramos administration in exchange for his abandoning the struggle for secession. He had managed to keep it by browbeating the national government into postponing several times the elections that should have been held in September 1999. Now the Macapagal administration is bent on holding the elections. But abandoned by his own leaders and Malacañang and criticized by his constituents for doing nothing, Misuari knew it was foolish to run.

Seeing power and money slipping out of his hands, Misuari is playing his last card: war. But this time there is nothing even remotely idealistic about his goal. There is no more mention of establishing an independent Islamic state. There is no more talk about giving justice to the Bangsamoro people. It's all personal pique and spite for a government that he thought didn't give him his due. But then who would still consider him an Islamic revolutionary and freedom fighter after all that he has done? He couldn't even wait for the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan to launch his new war.

Pity his poor loyal followers who continue to be mesmerized by his promises. He may have given some of them a brief taste of the comfortable life, but he couldn't lift his constituency out of their poverty or even improve their lives a little bit. Now he is again leading them to the slaughter, and all because he couldn't be their leader for life.



An interview with former President Estrada (Part 3)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FORMER PRESIDENT Estrada may not be so happy now because of the Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the plunder law, of which he stands accused and faces death by lethal injection if convicted. But last Saturday at his Veterans Memorial Hospital suite, he was in a cheerful mood as he talked and exchanged jokes with 11 print and broadcast journalists. Was he cheerful because he believed the rumor that the tribunal would strike down the plunder law by a vote of 8-6? Or did he invite them so they would write favorable stories that may influence the justices to vote in his favor? He was wrong both times.

In the middle of the dinner, Sen. Tito Sotto arrived. He said there are now more opposition senators in the Senate because many of the pro-administration senators are junketing in the United States with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. He said there are 10 opposition senators as against only 7 administration senators, not enough to elect new officers but enough to declare all positions vacant.

That would be interesting, the journalists agreed.

It turned out they did attempt a Senate coup last Monday but failed. They couldn't produce the 13 votes needed.

Erap called for some red wine. When it arrived, I asked, "*Wala bang* Petrus?"

"*Wala na,*" replied Erap, laughing. "*Noon ang daming nagbibigay ng* Petrus. *Ngayon, wala na. Magtyaga na lang tayo sa* California wine."

Who were the best and poorest performers in his Cabinet? He was asked.

"The economists," he answered, "Titoy Pardo (of finance), Philip Medalla (of Neda), Ben Diokno (of budget), Vigilar (of public works). And of course Angara (then of agriculture, now Senator Edgardo). Vigilar was very thorough. *Nasa* helicopter *pa lang kami* on an inspection trip, he would already spread out his maps for me to see."

"Who were the poorest?"

"Not the poorest, but the least effective. You know, the executive secretary and the press secretary are the frontline troops. They are the ones in contact with the public, and especially the media which report to the public. But Ronnie (former executive secretary, now Representative Ronaldo) was not aggressive enough, and Rod (former Press Secretary Rodolfo) was laid back and reserved. So I appointed a spokesman, but I was still clobbered in media."

What did he say about the charges against him?

He said the walkout by his prosecutors in the Senate impeachment trial was the worst thing that happened to him. He was not able to present his side and the walkout led to Edsa II that ousted him from Malacañang.

"But I think they planned the walkout whether or not the envelope was opened," he said. "But the majority of the senators played into their hands by voting not to open the envelope."

But it is legally correct, he insisted. "Not many people understand it, but it is like an accused is charged with theft, but the contents of that envelope was evidence for murder, for which the accused is not charged," he explained. (It turned out that the contents of that envelope was harmless.)

Where did he get all his money?

"I don't have that much money. They say I was getting payola from *jueteng* lords. That's not true."

He said, however, that he was in favor of legalizing *jueteng*, and he explained why.

When he was mayor of San Juan, he related, he had *jueteng* operations raided. The municipal hall was filled not only with arrested operators and *cobradors* but with their families telling him that they were only trying to earn a living. "They asked me to give them other jobs and they wouldn't go into *jueteng*.

"I summoned all the known *jueteng* lords to my office," he narrated.

"'*Magsabi kayo ng totoo sa akin!*' I told them. 'How much are you giving to the chief of police every week?'

"'P3,000 *po* (this was during the early 1960s when the peso value was higher).'

"'*Sa* vice mayor? P6,000.'

"'*Sa konsehal*? P500.'

"'*Sa* provincial commander? P12,000.'

"'*Ganito ang gagawin natin*,' I told them. 'Don't give the municipal officials anything. Sa provincial commander, *wala akong pakialam. Pero* what you are giving to municipal officials you will put in a special fund for the benefit of the people.'

"That *jueteng* money, I used as a social fund to pay for the needs of the people—medicine, burials, weddings, baptisms, etc. A mayor cannot get these from his own pocket. So instead of corrupting municipal officials, the *jueteng* money was helping the people.

"That was what I wanted to do nationwide," Erap explained. "And that was how the Bingo 2-Ball was born to replace *jueteng*. The earnings would be plowed back to the people."

He said he wanted the Muslim youth to be educated so that eventually the Muslims would be weaned away from the feudal ways of their elders. So he set up the Muslim Scholarship Foundation with *jueteng* money under Edward Serapio. But Erap was ousted before it could send even one Muslim scholar to school.

Sen. Loi Ejercito arrived at about 11 p.m. as we were about to leave. She was wearing light violet tight pants and blouse. She was smiling from ear to ear.

"*Kita mo,*" Erap whispered. "*Haping-hapi siya. Solong-solo niya ako, eh.*"

We said our goodbyes. Jinggoy came out of the bedroom to bid us goodbye, too. He had appeared to greet us when we arrived but promptly disappeared again into the bedroom.

We walked out into the cool night air. By that time, our families were frantically looking for us. We couldn't call home because phones were prohibited in Erap's suite.

Leave well enough alone

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I READ with interest Samira Ali Gutoc's article on our front page last Sunday ("Young Muslims out to make it to ARMM on meritocracy"). Quite apart from the very young people she mentions there as seeking minor office in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao elections next Monday, first-time politicians running on the strength of ideals, Samira mentions as well 40-year-old Ibrahim Paglas, who is seeking to become ARMM governor.

Paglas' credentials look formidable, from Samira's account. He is the only Muslim to have won the TOYM award. He has turned the Datu Paglas town in Maguindanao into a Peace Zone, which CNN, the Canadian International Development Agency and the United Nations have variously acknowledged as a success story. He is held in high esteem by both Christians and Muslims in Muslim Mindanao, and weaves in and out of both circles with ease.

I myself have heard a thing or two about Paglas. Somebody told me he was one of those who got the Bayani Awards last weekend from ABS-CBN, an award given to Filipinos who have excelled in their chosen fields. A businessman by profession and mayor by avocation, he has been responsible for a great deal of investments pouring into his area. His idea of peace apparently is one based on progress and mutual cooperation between Muslims and Christians, a theory he at least practices.

All of which makes one wonder why Malacañang seems so determined to ram into the throats of Muslim Mindanaoans one Parouk Hussin. It has folly—and tragedy, for Muslim Mindanao—written all over it.

At the very least, the intervention in what ought to be purely the affairs of the Muslim Filipinos is totally uncalled for. The past three elections for ARMM governor had Malacañang's choices winning—Zacaria Candao, Lininding Pangandaman and Nur Misuari—but had Muslim Mindanao itself losing in the aftermath. Muslim Mindanao has not only become more impoverished, it now stands on the brink of war.

Certainly, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's intervention in those elections is totally uncalled for. It is not only that she herself was not elected but was shoved into power by an accident of fate, it is also that a great deal of expectation went along with that investiture of power. She was the beneficiary of "people power," a spark of national genius whose ultimate thrust is to right wrongs, stamp out evil and change the world for the good. Indeed, whose ultimate thrust is at least **not** to revive past evils, **not** to wallow in *trapo* politics, **not** to plunge the world in flames in the reckless pursuit of self-interest.

We recall that at one point in her State of the Nation Address not too long ago, Ms Macapagal challenged the opposition to stop "politicking" and rally to make the country better. She should practice what she preaches. Her challenge cannot mean that everyone should stop "politicking"—except her. If what I hear is right, a couple of weeks ago, in a meeting in Malacañang, she handed out P50,000 each to Mindanao public officials in exchange for their vow to see to it Hussin wins the elections. That doesn't only have "politicking" written all over it, that has the worst of *trapo* politics written all over it.

What makes her intervention in the ARMM elections especially foolish, and tragic, is that her candidate, unlike previous Malacañang favorites, is a terribly weak one. "Ramming down the throats of Muslim Mindanaoans" is by no means an exaggeration. The only thing Hussin has going for him is that he is backed up by the Moro National Liberation Front's so-called "Committee of 15," which quite ironically is no longer intact but has itself split into two factions. In any case, that backing by no means signifies the will of the electorate. It probably signifies the opposite, which is the hostility of the electorate, the "Committee of 15" having been pushed into the fringes of Muslim affairs in recent years.

Without Malacañang's support—which his competitors fear may not be limited to financial help, representatives from the national government having been calling local Comelec officers to meetings—Hussin's candidacy doesn't look bright at all. Indeed, even if he wins, he stands to have his legitimacy challenged not just administratively by the people he proposes to rule but legally as well. Hussin holds a foreign passport, a Swedish one, having lived there since the 1970s until he was thawed out of the cold to fill in the shoes of ARMM governor. Which is to say as well that he has not met the residency requirement for running for public office, and for so high-profile an office as ARMM governor.

But in the end, the real tragedy there is that his candidacy, which is being pushed by Ms Macapagal with the zeal with which she is preparing the ground for her own candidacy in 2004, crowds out the really good people who are in Muslim Mindanao, who do want to do something for the patch of earth they live in and love. Young and idealistic people who are tired of seeing Muslim Mindanao play the role of doormat of the country and want to turn it into something better. Who want to change the culture of war and poverty, and usher Muslim Mindanao into the 21st century, or even merely the 20th. And far more urgently, who want to pluck Muslim Mindanao from the jaws of war and bring Muslims and Christians to work together.

Malacañang's intervention in the ARMM elections does not augur well for Muslim Mindanao, it bodes ill for it. It puts peace even farther from the grasp of Muslims in Mindanao by offering them a leader who will not be beholden to them but to Malacañang who will have purchased or purloined his position for him. To be paid for in 2004. If President Macapagal wants to bring peace to Muslim Mindanao, if she wants to hear the true voice of Muslim Mindanao, she should do only one thing. Which is to do nothing.

Which is to leave those elections well enough alone.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@
vasia.com

The Supreme Court's stabilizing force

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE SUPREME Court threw out decisively the legal challenge mounted by deposed President Estrada to overturn the anti-plunder law with a 10-4-1 vote on Monday, upholding the constitutionality of the law. The Court rejected Estrada's argument that the law was vague.

This was the fourth time in nine months that the Court had knocked back attempts by the former President, first to question the constitutional legitimacy of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and then, to extricate himself from several criminal cases alleging plunder, corruption and perjury laid against him at the Sandiganbayan.

The first was the 13-0 decision on March 2, confirming the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency; the second was the Court's 13-0 ruling maintaining its decision against a motion for reconsideration; and the third was the 9-4 decision, also issued on March 2, declaring that Estrada had no immunity against prosecution for the criminal cases with the Sandiganbayan. The ruling against immunity cleared the way for his trial.

The series of decisions delivered powerful blows on Estrada's efforts not only to dismantle the criminal cases but also, as in the case of the plunder law, to win temporary freedom on bail that would have allowed him to resume political activity and possibly destabilize the Macapagal administration.

The chain of decisions was clearly a strike for political stability and the decisions indicated a thrust by the Court toward judicial statesmanship or activism that began with the Court giving authority to Chief Justice Hilario Davide on Jan. 19 to swear in then Vice President Macapagal as President. The decisive margins of the votes in all the four cases left no doubt about the concern of the Court over providing an environment of stability to a government which was clothed with constitutional legitimacy by the Court itself after the collapse of the Estrada administration on Jan. 19.

The Court's decision on the plunder law came as a shock to Estrada, his lawyers and his political supporters. Days before the en banc session of the Court at which it made the vote, rumors had swept the capital that the Court was split down the middle with a 6-6 deadlock and, up until the weekend, the Estrada camp was confident of winning the case, with a reported 8-6 vote in favor of overturning the law.

Also, days before the decision, Estrada had invited a group of journalists for an interview inside his detention quarters at the Veterans Medical Center, where he was reported to be in a confident and even jovial mood. In the course of the Court's deliberations on the case, it had come under pressure coming not only from speculations over the vote in the press and from threats from overzealous guardians of judicial probity, like the Equal Justice for All group, which warned of a new people power demonstration if the Court overturned the plunder law. The Plunder Watch, a coalition of groups which had monitored the progress of the Estrada cases, had prejudged the outcome by warning that "people wouldn't just swallow any Supreme Court decision that is basically wrong."

On the eve of the vote, cellular phones were swamped by text messages alleging there was a P500-million fund to try to influence the decision of the justices. And not to be outdone, Estrada's supporters had laid siege in the Court's premises to show the power of the rabble.

All these incidents—including media speculations even before the decision had been promulgated—highlight unwarranted interference in the judicial process by building public opinion pressure on the justices. Now that the Court has disappointed the Estrada camp, it is the turn of Estrada's lawyers to criticize the Court for its ruling. For example, Crispin Remulla, spokesperson for the Puwersa ng Masa and a legal adviser to Estrada, has regretted that if the report on the decision were true, "then we really have a politicized judiciary" and said that "it's a sad day for Philippine jurisprudence."

If, on the other hand, the Court had declared the plunder law unconstitutional, then, can it be said by Remulla that the Court is not politicized? In the period following the ouster of Estrada, where political passions are high and politics is sharply polarized, the Supreme Court stands on a precarious position—it is damned whatever it does.

The anti-Estrada groups can now say that the Court remained independent and cannot be bought because it resolved the case in their favor. Against these pressures and doubts thrown over the Court, one thing has stood out—and it is that the Court, since the impeachment trial, has considered the factor of political stability as important to the preservation of Philippine democracy, by interpreting the law in this context. No lawyer in this country, no matter how prestigious his reputation, can be more authoritative in deciding constitutional issues than the collective minds of the Court.

The Court, since the impeachment trial, has been a stabilizing force in our turbulent democracy and transfer of power, preventing the country from plunging into civil strife. Indeed, among all the key institutions of the Philippine state, it is the Supreme Court that has enjoyed the highest public confidence when all other institutions—especially the political ones—have been discredited and damaged by the crisis that toppled the Estrada regime.

Neither the Estrada supporters nor the overzealous monitors of transparency in government are helping the judicial system maintain its independence and integrity by prejudging court decisions on critical constitutional issues on the basis of their narrow interests. Over the past nine months, the Court has been consistent in its decisions that have enhanced the opportunities to implement a regime of rule of law when applied to political leaders who are being haled to court for accountability of their management of public affairs. The Court should be shielded from the excesses of people power or mob rule.

Justice and restitution

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BY THIS time, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would have met with US President George W. Bush in a brief "coffee session" at the White House. Let us hope she will have, as promised, taken up concerns regarding the rights and claims of Filipino World War II veterans with her counterpart.

If you will recall, Filipino soldiers fought alongside American troops in Bataan and Corregidor at the outbreak of the Pacific war, and more Filipinos than Americans, in a ratio roughly 10-1, died at the hands of the Japanese invaders during the Death March and incarceration at the various concentration camps, especially Camp O'Donnell. But after the War, with the Japanese driven out in large part due to the efforts of Filipino guerrillas, the American government chose to "downgrade" the status of the Filipino veterans, a clear injustice denounced in the halls of the American Congress but to no avail. More than 50 years after the war's end, our veterans are still fighting for official recognition and equal treatment with their American counterparts. After all, they reason, they were fighting under the American flag since the country was still a Commonwealth under American colonial rule when the Japanese invaded.

But if it is taking the American government more than 50 years to correct an historical injustice, what are the chances the Bush administration will act in time to correct a much more recent violation?

* * *

IN A PUBLIC statement, Filipino-Americans and American environmentalists have said they hope President Macapagal will "remember the hundreds of Filipino victims at the former US bases who suffer from illnesses related to toxic refuse abandoned by the US military." Since her visit has been timed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the US-RP Mutual Defense Treaty, the Filipino-American Coalition for Environmental Solutions (Faces) is demanding that the Philippine government, through the President, exert greater political will on behalf of the victims of American toxic wastes left behind in Clark and Subic.

They said they hope President Macapagal will "obtain concrete commitments of assistance for environmental remediation and aid to toxic waste victims." Although the United States and the Philippines have long been military allies, the United States has refused to claim responsibility for toxic contamination left at its former bases in the Philippines, the group said. "The President has a significant opportunity to correct a grave injustice against the Filipino people. It is only fitting that as the heads of state commemorate 50 years of US-Philippines military cooperation, President Macapagal tends to the unfinished business of environmental cleanup at the former bases—one of which is in her home province of Pampanga," said Angelica Jongco, Faces national director.

A health survey released by a Canadian institute in 1998 revealed that communities closest to toxic sites reported high rates of reproductive, kidney, and nervous disorders. Today, residents living near Clark and Subic—where groundwater and soil contamination are widespread—report many stillbirths, congenital defects, cancers (including childhood leukemia), skin diseases, and mental disability. Additionally, a US Congress-General Accounting Office preliminary investigation revealed the level of contamination to be of "Superfund" proportions.

How much would you bet that President Macapagal brought up the matter with President Bush? Or that the Faces petition even merited her attention? And if the Philippine government itself is reluctant to discuss the issue of toxic wastes, how can we expect the Americans to even admit, much less clean up, the toxic legacy of their military presence here?

* * *

IN A PREVIOUS column, I'd written about the women of Afghanistan and how, contrary to popular opinion, their lives may not necessarily have changed for the better even after the Taliban's retreat.

Women, and children, after all, are particularly under threat in conditions of armed conflict and flight, and the situation in Afghanistan is still far from peaceful.

Well, it seems that the United Nations Security Council, in a recent resolution, has also recognized this reality.

It expressed concern that "civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements."

The Council resolution also reaffirmed the "important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building," stressing the "importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security."

* * *

IN ITS resolution adopted last Oct. 31, the UN Security Council urged member-states to "ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict."

It also urged UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys as well as to expand the role and contribution of women in UN field-based operations, especially among military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel.

When negotiating and implementing peace agreements, all actors involved should adopt a gender perspective, the Council said, taking into account such factors as: the special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement, and rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction; local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution; and the need for ensuring and protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls.

The Security Council also "calls on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict."

Finally, the world's governments have recognized that women and girls do not constitute "war booty," and their sexual abuse and exploitation are not "natural" rewards of victorious armies, or "normal" needs of military personnel, including UN Special Forces.

Quiapo's place in history

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MY parents seldom went to the movies and I wonder if dark movie houses were part of the dating game in their time. Most of the movies I saw as a child were in downtown Manila theaters as I was often borrowed by my aunts from Pampanga who descended on our Quezon City home every week. They came for business and dealt with suppliers and dealers in Quiapo, Rizal Avenue and Chinatown. I do not recall what they bought, but at each stop we were offered softdrinks and *merienda*. I roamed around outside the store until we moved to the next one. After a late lunch I was asked to choose a movie and my aunts would take their siesta in the theater before returning me to my parents on their way back to San Fernando.

Over the years, I returned to Quiapo on my own, initially drawn there by childhood memories, then by curiosity over the hawkers of herbs, *anting-anting* and good fortune around the Quiapo Church. From the church, I explored the music shops on Platerias and other vendors on all side streets before peering into student dormitories and canteens that had once been proud and very *sosyal* homes on R. Hidalgo. When I went into history years later, I would connect these deteriorating structures with Quiapo residents who figured in historical times which our textbooks refer to as the Propaganda or Reform movement, the Katipunan, the Malolos Republic and the Filipino-American War. These visits were the first steps in a rediscovery of history and memory that helped me appreciate the landscape and heritage of Quiapo.

Nearly two years ago, Dr. Fernando Nakpil Zialcita, an anthropologist at the Ateneo de Manila University with roots in Quiapo, took me to the house where Julio Nakpil (1867-1960) and Gregoria de Jesus (1875-1930) once lived. Nakpil was the composer of the Katipunan anthem "Marangal na Dalit ng Katagalugan" that could have been our national anthem today if Andres Bonifacio did not lose out on the struggle for leadership of the revolution. Nakpil's wife was the muse of the Katipunan, the widow of Andres Bonifacio. They lived on the mezzanine of a large Quiapo house that was also home to Dr. Ariston Bautista (1863-1928), a friend of Rizal whose association with the Propaganda movement led to his imprisonment in 1896. Then there was Juan Nakpil, eldest and only son of Julio Nakpil and Gregoria de Jesus, who was named National Artist for Architecture. If one could find so many historical connections in one house spanning the Reform Movement, the Revolution and the Malolos Republic, surely there was much more history hidden in the rest of Quiapo.

Quiapo must have been a very genteel place to live in during the late 19th and early 20th centuries because the non-Spanish elite—the *mestizos* and indios—who were not welcome in Intramuros (Spanish Manila), made Quiapo their home. The surnames are quite prominent today in business and society. A century ago three Quiapo residents were at the helm of the Malolos Congress: Pedro Paterno was president; Benito Legarda, vice president; and Gregorio Araneta, secretary. It may also come as a surprise to many that delegates who took the train from Tutuban to Malolos to be present at sessions, represented districts outside Manila they have never visited or seen: Paterno was representative for Ilocos Norte; Ariston Bautista for Cebu; Miguel Zaragoza for Capiz; Narciso Resurreccion Hidalgo for Calamianes; Benito Legarda for Jolo; Maximino Paterno for Burias, etc. The old Quiapo families have since moved on and even their place in history has come under revision. While an integral part of the long process that made the Filipino nation, some historians think otherwise and maintain that the entrance of the elite into Malolos spelled the end of the revolution.

But Quiapo's history goes a long way before the 19th century. In the early 1600s, history records a dispute between the leading Quiapo families—relatives and descendants of Rajah Soliman—and the Jesuits. Miguel Banal of Quiapo wrote Philip III in Madrid complaining that the Jesuits were "insinuating themselves more and more into our lands and taking more than what was assigned to them...that we had scarcely any land remaining in the village for our fields and even for our houses." The case was only settled by Philip IV in 1639.

Quiapo does not lose its fighting spirit even in the early 20th century as the newspaper El Renacimiento was established there in 1901 by Martin Ocampo. In 1908, the paper ran an anti-imperialist editorial by Fidel Reyes "Aves de Rapiña (Birds of Prey)," that prompted Interior Secretary Dean Worcester to sue for libel. Teodoro Kalaw was dragged in because he was editor of the paper, so was Martin Ocampo (no relation), the publisher. To cut a long exciting story short, the case took years to resolve, proving that the wheels of justice grind slowly indeed. The paper closed down and its assets were sold off. Kalaw was sentenced to prison but was pardoned by Governor-General F.B. Harrison, another name best remembered as a Pasay street. The historic Renacimiento building was recently torn down.

Quiapo is a far cry from what it once was and it is hoped that an awareness of its place in history will be the first step in its renaissance or *renacimiento*.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

An elderly medical experience

I WAS taken aback, one morning, when a male nurse came to say he was giving me a sponge bath. Knowing how thorough the female nurses have been giving me my baths (especially the private parts), I was concerned for the younger female patients who might get assigned to him. He said that a female patient could ask for a female nurse. I was 82 years old, but I was still squeamish about being handled by a male nurse.

HIGH BLOOD

Narita Manuel-Gonzalez

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

Today we will be seeing more male nurses in a profession that we have always connected with women in white-starched uniforms and stiff nurse's caps We hope the caps continue to be used. But what will the male nurse use?

In 1928 (yes, that long ago, Virginia), I was seated on a wooden operating room chair, my feet dangling. My doctor/surgeon sat in front of me.

"Open your mouth," he said. I did. Snip! Snap! My tonsils were out. Then the doctor left me alone. No nurse around, too. It was a lonely time and place for me. I decided to clamber down the chair. I walked to the children's ward, luckily nearby. Then, I was tasting a lot of blood. Ugh! Why do vampires like that bloody taste?

Today, tonsils are no longer removed unless they are very infected. Many children of my age then must have had tonsillectomy. Tonsils act as filters of the mouth.

In 1953 I delivered a normal baby girl at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Because I was bleeding, I was taken to a recovery room instead to my private room.

Three, four, five o'clock—I was still alive. At six, seven and then eight in the evening, I was still bleeding. My sight was dimming. I knew I was losing a lot of blood. With the crucifix of my rosary, I tapped at the railing of my bed. The intern and the obstetrician's assistant came away from their chatting. They saw my sorry state. One said she'd call my obstetrician at once (she was at a mahjong table).

The last words I heard were, "I'll have to remove the source of the bleeding." My uterus! And the last words I uttered were, "I want to see a priest."

For 15 days, I was kept in bed. I lost a lot of blood. I had to relearn how to walk. Early ambulation was not yet practiced. I had a surgical menopause at the age of 35. No more need of sanitary napkins but also no more babies. Luckily I had already four.

In the late '80s or early '90s, a series of hysterectomies in the United States alarmed the medical insurance companies. They started to insist that there be a second opinion for any hysterectomy to be done and this goes too for any operation now. A second opinion ensures payment of insurance promptly.

About those cysts in the breasts. From 1956 to 1996, I have had four cysts removed by surgeons here. I had the same number of cyst treatments by aspiration. My American doctor used a syringe to draw fluid form the cyst. These aspiration tests yielded negative results—my cysts were all benign. A friend said that when her doctor could not successfully aspirate a cyst, he had it removed by surgery.

Today, I don't know when the doctors here will aspirate instead of remove cysts by surgery. There is less expense and tension on the part of the patient.

I thought it was sour stomach or heartburn. The pain was so severe one day in Hayward. The diagnosis by my doctor was an infected gall bladder. It was removed, the size of a wizened walnut.

This was when I learned about early ambulation. Next morning after the operation, I was ordered to walk around. This I did, pushing my TV stand around using it like a cane to guide me.

Nowadays, early ambulation is recommended for patients who, instead of just lying down in one's bed after an operation, are asked to walk around.

Tia! What is it? Transient ischemic attack. I knew I had it when, after being brought home from a parish function, I became dizzy and weak with blurring vision. I began to slur. I asked my daughter to bring me to the hospital. But first, she brought me to my acupuncturist. Of course, my acupuncturist, who is a physician too, was surprised. He said I must go to a neurologist at once. He wrote down a name but since I was there, he would give me four needles, two in the feet and two in the head.

The neurologist at the National Kidney Institute gave me a series of tests. It was more like a follow the leader thing—do as she does. Did the acupuncturist help me? I responded quite well, thank you, but I must be confined to prevent another attack. I was also referred to see a cardiologist.

Today, we have a lot of specialists like the neurologist, the cardiologist, ophthalmologist, etc. We don't have to go abroad for operations. The best Filipino physicians are experts in their lines of specialty.

Cataract operation? No sweat! Have the eye operation now and a few hours later you can go home with a better vision. It didn't happen to me, though. I wanted the operation done at the Philippine General Hospital. I thought that being a University of the Philippines retiree, I can avail of discounts, etc. It turned out that it's hard to get a reservation. A patient must first be "confined" overnight. It took some weeks before I could get a room. Then after the operation, my ophthalmologist thought it was wiser to stay an extra night since I was too active for my age. He heard I was to attend a social event that night. It was not as cheap an operation as I bargained for. Two nights of confinement added to the bill.

Today, a lot of eye experts are available. Eye operations can be done in a clinic or a hospital. My case was different because I wanted a hospital setting due to my heart condition.

And this brings one to the last confinement I had recently, just 10 days after my PGH experience.

I was rushed to the ICU of the NKI because my heart was truly "misbehaving." It goes as slow as 46 (or 36) then rushes up to 136 beats per minute.

The first pacemakers were as large as a *"panocha."* But they became smaller with better technology and with smaller batteries, too. Mine is a bit larger than a new P5 coin. A Filipino-American surgeon said the new batteries in us are smaller than a five-centavo coin and can last up to seven years. Mine is good for 15 years but it depends on how I use it. The battery will "grant" my heart to beat no less than 60 beats per minute. I must avoid using a microwave oven. Also, the airport gate's alarm will sound off when I pass through it, so I have to show the guard my pacemaker ID. I must not push, carry or lift heavy objects. I also must avoid walking alone. It's best to have someone with me all the time.

Today, I found out there are many folks going about with pacemakers implanted into a "pocket" inside their chests. I treat mine like a badge of honor. I delayed having one, thinking that I could get my heart to behave better. "Old age," my cardiologist said. At 83 can I command my heart to beat normally? My battery will last for 15 years. I also must finish some projects for NVM—his memorial/festschrift book and the last project he was working on before he died. It is an anthology of 60 writers, many of whom have never been included in any anthology but very much deserve to be read, too. May I be able to finish these projects—me and my pacemaker.

Narita Manuel-Gonzalez is the widow of the late National Artist, NVM Gonzalez.

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What do we need long vacations for?

YOUR editorial on Nov. 11 titled "Holiday economics," missed one important factor in computing the average working days of a typical Filipino worker. I'm referring to "employee loafing" that afflicts practically every Filipino salaryman in this part of the world. I'm saying this in fairness to our overseas Filipino workers who can't surely be faulted when they're working in other countries.

You'll readily understand what I'm saying about "loafing" if you calculate the time an average worker spends before he starts working, during core office hours, and shortly before clocking out. Let me start with a conservative estimate using the 8 to 5 day work schedule.

Take a look at our employees. Do they readily start working the moment they set foot in the office? Or do they take breakfast in the cafeteria, read the dailies, or chat with colleagues? Or do they spend much time in the rest rooms?

During core work hours, what can you observe about them? Do they peddle goods on the side? Sell raffle tickets or get bets for PBA games, if not exchange gossip with one another?

How about shortly before closing time? I'm sure that most of our employees will run to the nearest rest rooms to freshen themselves up or line up for the bundy clock in time to meet their favorite FX taxi on time.

If we maintain our conservative estimate, then surely we can deduct at least one productive hour from each working day. This translates to five hours a week or 260 hours a year (52 weeks x 5 hours) or 32.5 days. If we deduct 32.5 days from your computation of 130.5 days, then we can only net 98 working days a year or a more precise eight productive days per month! Can you imagine working only eight days a month or two days a week, and yet many of us are hoping that the government approves its next round of "holiday economics" this December?

The latest comparative report on labor productivity of 14 Asian countries as reported by the Asian Productivity Organization in its 40th anniversary report released last Oct. 24 in Singapore is very informative. Note that the Philippines has the most number of negative labor growth for the period 1990 to 1999, highlighting 1991 at -3.62 percent; 1992 at -2.97 percent; 1993 at -0.76 percent; 1996 at -0.03 percent; 1998 at -1.28 percent; and 1999 at -0.49 percent.

These figures alone should help the government in rethinking its position on the matter.—**REYLITO A.H. ELBO, chief strategist, Deming Management Systems, 6th Floor, L.V. Locsin Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

Not an official position of CFC

I WISH to clarify certain matters regarding the article "'Couples' no longer for Gloria," which appeared on the front page of the INQUIRER on Nov. 17, 2001.

First, your headline contradicted the contents of the article whose Paragraph 6 reads "…he declined to name the civil society groups, nor say whether the CFC was supporting the head hunters." A question mark (?) to punctuate the headline would therefore have been appropriate if you wanted to be thought-provoking.

In fact, I said in the next sentence that the CFC's ties with the President has "always been one of critical collaboration." The article did not mention the example I gave the writer regarding the plight of street children, and if I may now add a few other areas, like waste segregation, reforestation, women empowerment, medical missions, prison and drug rehabilitation, building communities and poverty-alleviation projects where the CFC is doing its share of good citizenship in support of the government.

Second, I am not a high-ranking officer of the CFC. The CFC is some sort of a horizontal organization where elders and members function as brothers and sisters. As such, this is to clarify that when interviewed, I was not striking an official position for the CFC, which only our council can do, but was merely ventilating views of some civil society organizations in Manila and other concerns I gathered during my speaking tour of 19 Mindanao provinces, including Basilan, in behalf of the CFC's socio-political ministry St. Thomas More and Associates.—**ADO PAGLINAWAN**

YES, we agree with Mr. Paglinawan that a question mark should have been used in the headline "'Couples' no longer for Gloria." Or probably a different head should have been used, something like "Civil society no longer for Gloria, says CFC man," which would have been justified, based on the statement in the story which says: "Ado Paglinawan said some 'civil society' groups are looking for another candidate to support in the 2004 presidential elections." We regret the error.—**Ed.**

Ban tinted glass

IT seems strange that a connection between kidnapping and tinted, impossible to see inside glass on every form of vehicle.

Ban tinting of any kind and you strike a blow against kidnappers which all good citizens will support.—**H.G. DOUGLAS MCLAREN, National Life Insurance Company of the Philippines, 6762 Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

Father is a priest

ON SEPT. 6, 2001 in the Youngblood section, you published the article titled "My father is a priest" by L.J. Ramos. The article was well received, for which I congratulate you.

The father of Larry Jay Ramos is a long-time friend of mine. He also gave me his son's article to print in our quarterly newsletter, sent mainly to priests for free.

I am producing a double issue of the newsletter, so I shall be deeply grateful if you allow me to print the article in our newsletter.

Cris Ramos, father of L.J. Ramos, will be very happy to see his son's article in print again.

I am a daily reader of the INQUIRER which is the best newspaper in circulation. Your daily editorial is of international standard. The articles featured in the Youngblood section are also excellent.—**EDWARD M. KELLY, Philippine Catholic Family Priests, P.O. Box 3037, Manila**

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Apology and assurances from Pag-IBIG exec

THIS is in response to the letter of Roberto G. Torres of Mandaluyong City on Nov. 5, 2001.

We are deeply sorry for the inconvenience that Torres went through regarding the issuance of his Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) identification card. We would like to assure our members that Torres' experience is an isolated case. It is against our service policy to make our members wait or come to our offices unnecessarily. Our apologies to him.

Nonetheless, we would like to inform Torres that the Pag-IBIG has temporarily stopped the issuance of ID cards pending the upgrading of our computer system nationwide. Members transacting with the Pag-IBIG are asked only for their complete names and employers' names and addresses.

Inasmuch as Torres is of retireable age, he is already qualified to withdraw his provident benefits with the Pag-IBIG, which includes his personal contributions, employer counterpart contributions (if any) and all dividend earnings.

He may file his application at the Pag-IBIG Ortigas branch office at Westar Building on Shaw Boulevard. We have already advised Edna Ancheta, manager of the Ortigas branch on Torres' problem and she is more than willing to assist him in his application for provident benefits.—**MANUEL C. CRISOSTOMO, president and chief executive officer, Home Development Mutual Fund, 8th Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City**

Who owns the levy fund?

THE QUESTION of who owns the levy fund is the core of the controversy between the group of Danding Cojuangco and some sectors of the small coconut farmers. The other question of whether the levy fund is a private or a public fund is the crux of the controversy between the group of Cojuangco and the Philippine Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

Under Republic Act 6260 when the first levy was collected, it was clearly paid for by the coconut farmers because the deduction was made on the first sale of copra and a receipt was issued to them as evidence of payment.

The succeeding coconut levies were authorized under various decrees issued by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

From 1973 until July 4, 1976, the levy was to be paid on the first sale of copra (meaning the coconut farmers). It is but fair and just to assume that the levy during that period was paid for by the coconut farmers. And, assuming that the yearly copra production was 2.032 million metric tons, the levy collected during the said period totaled about P2.7 billion.

From July 15, 1976 to May 26, 1980, the levy, as mandated in the decree that authorized its collection, was to be paid by the millers, dessicators, refineries and exporters. The collections during the said period totaled P4.2 billion based on the 2.032 million metric tons average copra production yearly.

And, from May 27, 1980 to August 1982, payment of the levy was transferred to the exporters only with a collection of P2.8 billion during the whole period based on the 2.032 million metric tons of copra production yearly.

The total coconut levy collection based on the 2.032 million metric tons yearly copra production and on the actual amount of levy collected under various presidential decrees issued by Marcos amounted to P9.69 billion covering the whole period from 1973 to 1982.

The claim of coconut farmers that they paid for the levy fund is partly correct. And the claim also of the Cojuangco group (millers, refineries, dessicators and exporters) that it paid the coconut levy funds is also partly correct. The coconut farmers paid about P2.7 billion while the Cojuangco group paid about P7 billion.

Cojuangco and his group are also coconut farmers and they are in fact the biggest contributor to the P2.7 billion levy collection paid by coconut farmers. And, the coconut farmers are also stockholders of Unicom which was the biggest exporter and miller at that time. It is very hard to resolve the issue of who paid the levy funds. Both are correct on their respective claims.

The levy fund is dearly private as it was collected upon the representation of the industry leaders who are also coconut farmers. The various presidential decrees authorizing the collection approximate that of RA 6260 which also authorized the collection of the coco fund levy to capitalize the Coconut Investment Company in 1971.

What is important now is to stop the greed of the PCGG which is bent on holding on to the sequestration of the levy fund for obvious reasons.—**JOSE T. MARCHAN, president, Coco-Industry Rationalization Movement Inc., 3rd Floor, Samio Bldg., Paco, Manila**

VIP treatment

AS the legitimate spouse of a World War II guerrilla veteran, Godofredo Oliver Peteza, who received monthly pensions regularly, I was appalled upon reading the news report titled "Imelda gets gov't pension" (PDI, 11/01/01) particularly the personal delivery of the pension checks to former First Lady Imelda R. Marcos as the surviving spouse of the late World War II veteran Ferdinand E. Marcos.

It was incredible that the government could have personally delivered the pension checks through no less than Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. This was a slap on the hundreds of thousands of veterans who have not yet received their pension checks for the month of October 2001. Not only that, the televised delivery of the pension checks added insult to injury for the veterans and their surviving spouses who are still waiting for their checks. It is already November 2001 and the late delivery further aggravates their financial conditions.

Can't Defense Secretary Reyes whose department under which the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office handles the preparation of the monthly pension checks, cause the release on time? Does it make any difference between the late veteran Marcos and the obscure World War II veterans when both received the same amount of P4,500 in monthly pensions for old age?

As far as the veterans are concerned, military ranks are not the basis in the determination of the amount in the release of the monthly old age pensions.—**TRINIDAD ESTURAS PETEZA, JP Rizal Street, Daet, Camarines Norte 4600**

Needed infra on Mindanao Avenue

IF and when the newly installed traffic lights/signals at the Tandang Sora Avenue-Mindanao Avenue intersection can be made operational, the following are suggested to the Traffic Engineering Center-Department of Public Works and Highways, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Quezon City Department of Public Order and Safety for early consideration to improve traffic flow and instill discipline in the area.

- Enforcement of MMA Ordinance No. 6.
- Paint the pedestrian lanes at the four corners of the intersections and the ones fronting the Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish.
- The DPWH should construct an overpass between the Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish and the Barangay Tandang Sora Hall.
- Designation of loading and unloading zones at the corners of the intersections.
- Painting or posting of traffic signs at strategic sites on Mindanao Avenue Extension.
- Enforcement of Quezon City Ordinance Nos. SP-143, S-93, SP-167 and S-94.
- Enforcement of anti-jaywalking.
- Regular assignments of traffic enforcers.—**RAMON B. ZAMUCO SR., Delta Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Noose tightens on Kunduz Taliban

TALOQAN, Afghanistan—Bombarded from the air and besieged on the ground, thousands of desperate Taliban defenders in Kunduz waited on Tuesday for word of negotiations to secure their free passage from the northern Afghan town.

As talks to prevent a bloodbath gathered momentum, Northern Alliance guns trained on Taliban front lines outside Kunduz were silent for the second straight day, Alliance General Abdul Rashid Dostum said.

Reuters reporters in nearby Taloqan said cloudy weather prevented US planes from bombing. But Afghan Islamic Press said US planes were still bombing the city, where thousands of fighters of the Taliban and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network were still holding out against Northern Alliance forces.

Speaking from the strategic city of Mazar-i-Sharif, which he captured from the Taliban on Nov. 9, Dostum said he was expecting the arrival of two commanders of the fundamentalist militia to discuss safe passage for thousands of their fighters.

Dostum said the plan was to grant an amnesty to local Taliban troops who give themselves up to Northern Alliance forces encircling Kunduz, an ancient city that guards routes into the central Asian republic of Tajikistan to the north.

But foreign fighters battling alongside them—including Arabs, Pakistanis and Chechens—would not get the same treatment, the ethnic Uzbek general added.

"We will deal with the foreigners according to international laws and human rights conventions," he said.

More than 10,000 Taliban fighters, pinned into the Taliban's last remaining redoubt apart from their southern stronghold of Kandahar, have been seeking safe passage out of Kunduz under the umbrella of the United Nations.

Dostum named the Taliban commanders expected to travel for the surrender negotiations as Mullah Dadullah, former commander of Taliban forces in Mazar-i-Sharif, and Mullah Fazal, former commander of the Taliban in Takhar province bordering Kunduz.

In opposition-held Taloqan, Northern Alliance commander Mohammad Dawood said some Taliban fighters were already switching sides.

"About 1,000 local Taliban have already defected and thousands more want to defect, and many escaped Kunduz," he told a news conference.

He said that after initial contacts by radio, face-to-face negotiations on a surrender were now under way.

"Today we will have more direct talks with Taliban commanders," he said. "I am not optimistic about the foreign Taliban surrendering, and some leaders of our (Afghan) Taliban as well."

Dawood said al-Qaida fighters had executed 470 Afghan Taliban troops who wanted to surrender. He said he was in contact with the two commanders expected to visit Dostum.

Some Taliban said to have defected were allowed to speak to journalists in Taloqan.

"I was fighting alongside the Taliban because I supported their ideals. But in Kunduz I decided I don't want to fight any more. I just wanted to go home and return to a peaceful life, said Mullah Rakhmatullo, 20, an ethnic Tajik from Taloqan.

"The foreign Taliban are in charge of everything in Kunduz. The Afghan Taliban are not even allowed into the headquarters. Many of the local Taliban want to defect."

The claims could not be independently verified.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he was against any deal that would let the defenders of Kunduz escape.

"Any idea that those people . . . should end up in some sort of a negotiation which would allow them to leave the country and go off and destabilize other countries and engage in terrorist attacks on the United States is something that I would certainly do everything I could to prevent," he said. *Reuters*

4 journalists killed after Afghan ambush

BURTON

FUENTES

CUTULI

HAIDARI

PESHAWAR, Pakistan and Kabul—The bodies of four ambush victims, believed to be journalists, were recovered Tuesday from a roadside in eastern Afghanistan, a local police chief said.

Nangarhar provincial police chief Hazrat Ali said the bodies, which had not yet been identified, would be brought to the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad.

One victim of the ambush, an Italian journalist, has already been identified by officials in Rome.

Four journalists, including two from Reuters, were missing and feared dead on Tuesday after gunmen forced them from their cars east of Kabul.

Reuters journalists Harry Burton, an Australian television cameraman, and Azizullah Haidari, an Afghan-born photographer, both aged 33, were reported missing after their convoy was stopped by gunmen on Monday near a bridge at Tangi Abrishum some 90 km east of Kabul in Afghanistan.

Spanish journalist Julio Fuentes of El Mundo and Italian journalist Maria Grazia Cutuli of Corriere della Sera were also missing.

The journalists were travelling in an eight-car convoy from the eastern city of Jalalabad, near the Khyber pass, to Kabul.

Reporters who escaped the ambush said the cars carrying the missing journalists were stopped by gunmen who forced the four journalists from their cars, beat them and hit them with stones.

As other cars in the convoy turned back, gunshots were heard.

A driver at the Kabul bus station said he had been driving from the eastern city of Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province, when he saw a body on the road. *AFP and Reuters*

Same source for 2 senators' anthrax letters

WASHINGTON—An anthrax-contaminated letter to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and a second letter, believed tainted by anthrax, sent to Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, were virtually identical and came from the same source, the FBI said on Monday.

The agency made the announcement following the reopening of two US Senate office buildings closed for environmental sweeps after the Leahy letter was discovered on Friday.

In a news release, the FBI said the Leahy letter, which has yet to be opened, appeared virtually identical on the outside to a letter received on Oct. 15 in the office of Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat.

"The Oct. 9, 2001, Trenton, N.J. postmark, the 'Greendale School' return address, block handwriting and other characteristics have combined to convince investigators that the letter was sent by the same person," the FBI statement said.

The FBI said the Leahy letter was "believed to contain anthrax," a livestock disease that can be used as a bioterrorism agent.

Four people have died and 13 others have been infected with anthrax since early October and in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington by hijacked commercial airliners. More than 32,000 Americans were forced to take antibiotics after anthrax-laced letters were sent to media outlets and to Daschle's Capitol Hill office.

No new cases of anthrax have been discovered since Oct. 31 when a New York hospital worker died of the inhaled version of the disease.

Scientists from the FBI and the US Army laboratory at Ft. Detrick, Maryland, were working with outside experts to find clues that would help identify who sent the letter, the FBI said. *Reuters*

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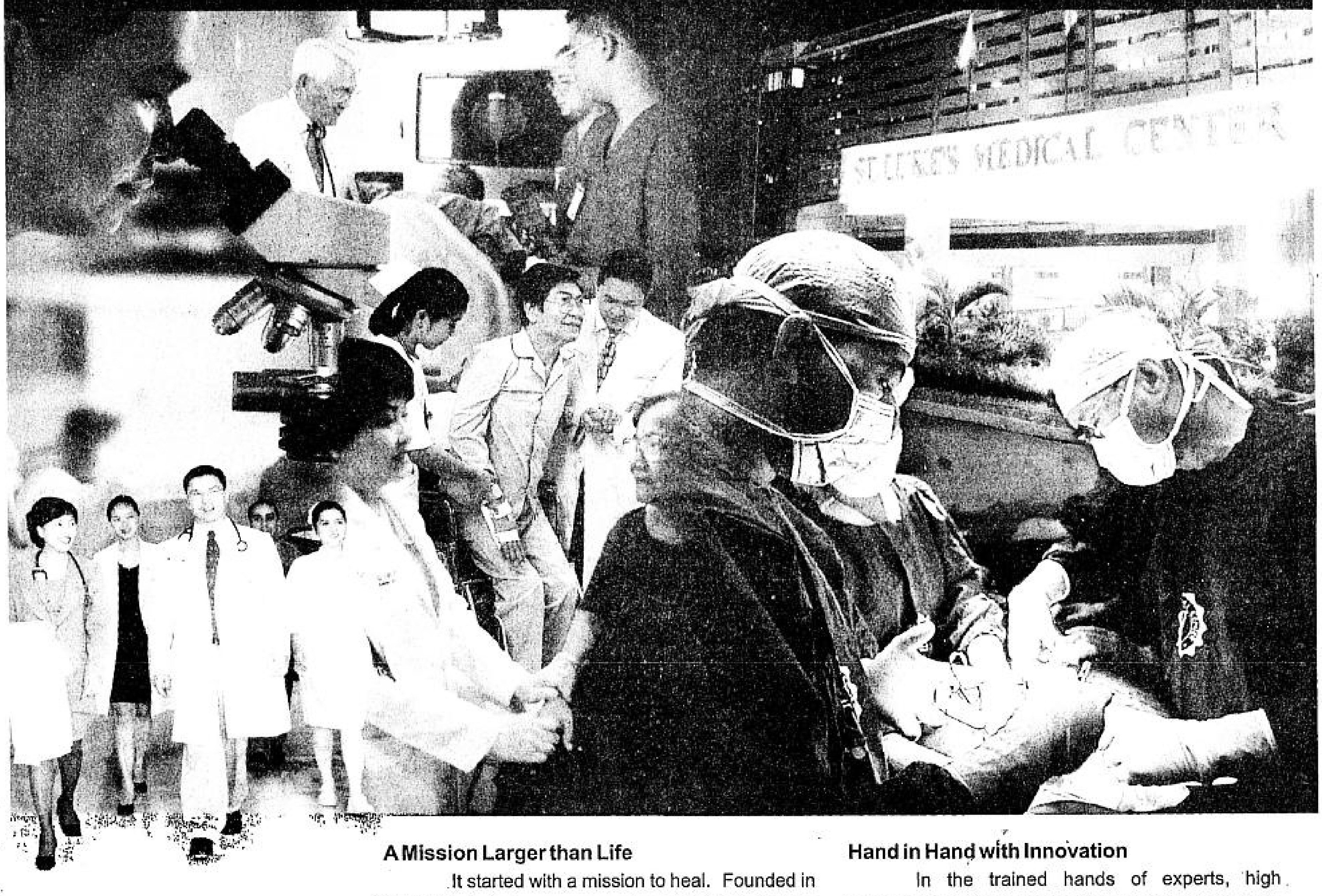

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Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy Subscribers:

1. All active SMART Buddy (pre-paid) subscribers in good standing are eligible to participate.
2. To join, SMART Buddy subscribers must register via text. To register, key in CHRISTMAS <name>/<address>/<region> and send to 211.
   Region codes: Luzon-LZ , Visayas-VS, Mindanao-MN, Metro Manila-MM
   Subscribers will be charged P2.50 per message sent.
3. The cellular phone number of SMART Buddy subscribers will serve as their raffle entry. There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber joins, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number unless he quits the promo. In the event that the winning cellular phone number was registered under two users within the same month of the promo duration, the current registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several cellular phone numbers at one time.
4. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Smart Buddy Reloads

- Every reload entitles the subscriber to earn raffle entries. The number of raffle entries earned is determined by the cumulative value of reloads at the end of each month as illustrated below:

CUMULATIVE RELOAD VALUE* PER SUBSCRIBER (PER MONTH)	RAFFLE ENTRY(IES)
₱300	1
₱500	5
₱800	12
₱1,000	20
every ₱300 beyond the 1st ₱1,000	5

*Note: Pre-paid reloading via Call & Text Card, SMART Money and SMART Mobile Banking is entitled to raffle entries.

Raffle entries earned through reloads will be credited after the end of each month (e.g. all entries earned for November will be reflected in a subscriber's raffle entry balance by December 1 only).

•Via Activation

- Each new SMART Buddy SIM card activation during the promo period entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry. The raffle entry earned will be credited at the end of the month.
- All activations for the duration of the promo period will be awarded raffle entries for as long as the subscriber has duly registered for the promo.

•Via SMART IDD

- Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 entries.

5. To view the number of raffle entries earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211.
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is P 2.50.
6. All entries earned for a particular month will be included in the monthly draw for the same period only. However, all entries not drawn are still qualified for the grand draw on January 11, 2002.
7. The participant can also opt to quit from the promo. To quit, key in CHRISTMAS QUIT and send it to 211. To register the number under a different name, the participant should repeat the registration steps. All valid entries made prior to quitting will still be included in the monthly and grand draw under the registered name.
   Rate for CHRISTMAS QUIT is P2.50

Promo Mechanics for SMART GOLD Subscribers:

1. Eligible individual or corporate SMART Gold (post-paid) subscribers can participate in the 2nd preliminary draw and grand draw following their billing cycles.
2. SMART Gold individual, corporate and government subscribers need not register, as they will be automatically included in the promo.
3. If a subscription is under a corporate or government account, in case it is drawn, the prize will be given to the corporate or government account.
4. The cellular phone number will serve as the raffle entry.
5. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

• Via Monthly Service Fee

- A SMART Gold subscriber exceeding a prescribed minimum monthly billing requirement earns him/her raffle entries.
- For every P250 in excess of the minimum billing requirement of each plan, a Gold subscriber earns additional 5 raffle entries.

GOLD PLAN (current)	GOLD PLAN (old)	MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING	RAFFLE ENTRY
300 (Corporate)	40	₱1,000	20
600	60	₱1,500	30
1,200	120 & 160	₱2,500	50
1,800	200 & 500	₱3,000	60
3,000	750	₱4,500	90
4,000	1,000	₱6,000	120

- For example, a Gold subscriber under Plan 600 has a billing of P2,500 he/she will earn a total of 50 raffle entries.

Plan	Minimum Monthly Billing Req.	Raffle Entry
Plan 600	₱1,500	30+20 = 50 raffle entries

Excess of ₱1,000 / 250 x 5 = 20

• Via Activation

- Each SMART Gold activation entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry.

•Via SMART IDD

- Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 raffle entries.

6. To view the number of raffle entries that you have earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211. For SMART Gold, balances will be updated at the end of the billing cycle.
   Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is P 2.50.

GENERAL Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy and SMART Gold Subscribers:

1. The draw dates and prizes are as follows:

DRAW DATES	PERIOD COVERED	PRIZES
Dec. 5, 2001	Nov. 1 -30, 2001	• Five (5) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 1 winner each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 2 winners from Metro Manila
Jan. 10 2002	Dec. 1-31, 2001	• Ten (10) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 2 winners each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 4 winners from Metro Manila
GRAND DRAW: Jan. 11, 2002	Nov. 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001	One (1) GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF P2,000,000 IN CASH – TAX-FREE

Showcase 1: Travel/Shopping for 5 persons in Bangkok or Hong Kong plus US$2,000 pocket money. This package includes 4 days and 3 nights accommodation plus round-trip airfare.
Showcase 2: Digital Dream Showcase (Nokia 9210, DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera, Sony Digital Still camera, Compaq iPAQ and Sony Play Station II)
Showcase 3: Home Theater Showcase Sony Wega 48" (121.92cm) Projection TV and Pioneer HTD1 Home Theater System which includes 5-disc DVD/CD changer, satellite speakers, center speaker and an active subwoofer)

2. All the prizes are TAX-FREE. If a showcase winner wants to convert his/her prize to cash, they will be given P175,000.00.
3. A winner may only win once every raffle draw.
4. The promo is from November 21 to December 31, 2001. All activations, reloads and IDD calls made since Nov. 1, 2001 are included in the promo.
5. Winners shall be notified thru the following means:
   a. Text Message.
   b. Registered Mail
6. Winners within Metro Manila may claim their prizes at the SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Provincial winners can claim their prizes at the nearest SMART office indicated in the register mail.
7. Winners must present their active SMART GSM celfone and SIM card, valid I.D. with photo and regstered mail when claiming their prizes.
8. All employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, and their advertising agencies and relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
9. The rafle will be held at the 27/F, SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Draws will be held at 12NN on December 5, January 10 and January 11.
10. Prizes should be claimed within 60 days from notification of winners.

*Actual prizes may vary from the ones shown.

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S. Korea: North has anthrax, smallpox germs

SEOUL—South Korea's Defense Ministry has estimated that North Korea holds as much as 5,000 tons of biological and chemical warfare materials, reports said on Tuesday.

In testimony to South Korea's parliament on Monday, hours before the United States accused North Korea of violating a ban on biological weapons, defense minister Kim Dong-shin said the North had anthrax and smallpox in its germ warfare arsenal.

"North Korea has 2,500 to 5,000 tons of biochemical weapons in six storage facilities," Kim told the National Assembly, according to Seoul media reports quoting parliamentary minutes.

On Monday, John Bolton, US Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, told a United Nations conference in Geneva that North Korea, Iraq and probably Iran had violated a the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

He accused the countries of building germ-warfare arsenals and suggested one of them might be helping Bin Laden.

Bolton said Washington has yet to determine the source of anthrax attacks in the United States but he noted that Osama bin Laden has said he wanted to obtain weapons of mass destruction and use them against the United States.

"We are concerned that he could have been trying to acquire a rudimentary biological weapons capability, possibly with support from a state," Bolton said.

Bolton said the United States was "not prepared, at this time, to comment whether rogue states may have assisted" Bin Laden in the plan.

Bolton said North Korea could likely "produce sufficient quantities of biological agents for military purposes within weeks of a decision to do so." Libya, Syria, Iran and Sudan were the others he cited as being at various stages in developing the weapons.

Underscoring the stress the United States has placed on biological warfare after deadly anthrax attacks that followed the Sept. 11 plane hijackings, Bolton called for steps to tighten enforcement of the treaty, which outlaws germ warfare.

North Korea has yet to respond publicly to the allegations of its germ warfare capability, which date back to the 1960s.

State media usually issue sharp attacks in response to criticism of the the communist state.

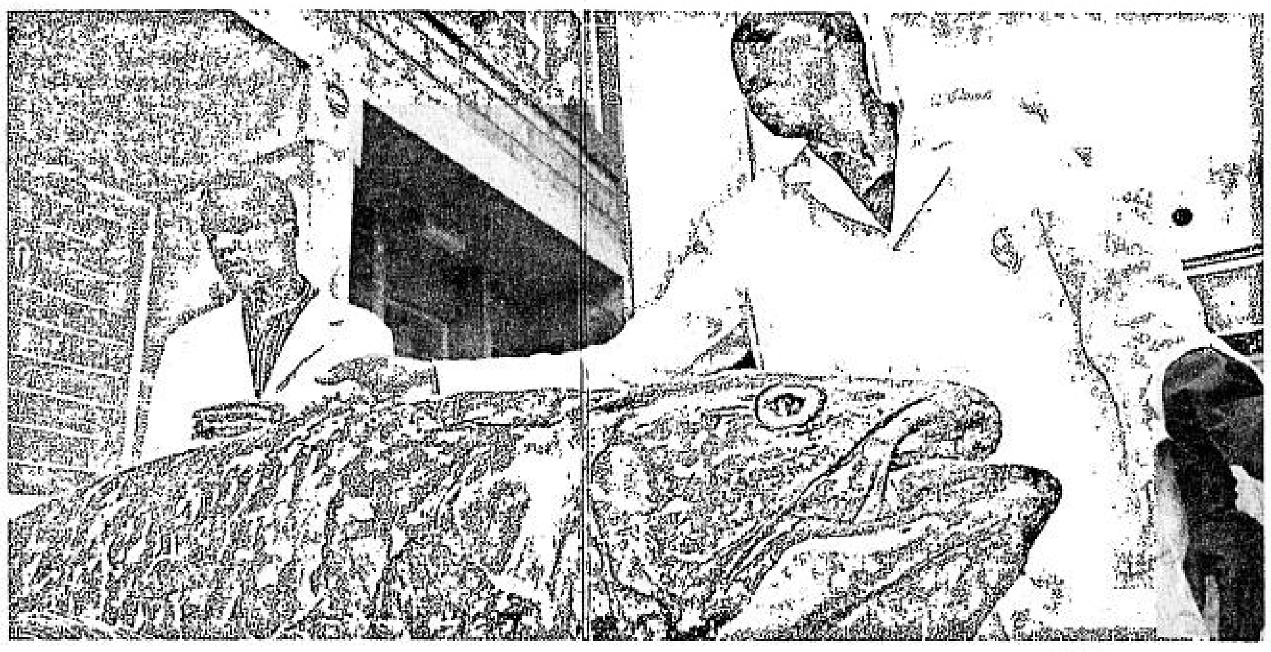
Kim's remarks to parliament on Monday did not differentiate between biological and chemical warfare stockpiles.

"The Armed Forces of North Korea," which catalogues the North's military capabilities, said the communist state's germ warfare inventory includes agents for anthrax, botulism, cholera, haemorrhagic fever, plague, smallpox, typhoid and yellow fever.

The book, published this year by Joseph S. Bermudez Jr, cites Western intelligence sources as saying North Korea has had the capability to produce biological agents for use as weapons since at least the mid-1970s.

However, it said there were no reliable estimates of North Korean germ warfare stockpiles, adding that the country had the technology and equipment to produce germ warfare agents quickly if needed.

It said the North's chemical weapons inventory was estimated to be at 2,500-5,000 tonnes, mostly of mustard, phosgene, sarin and V-agents. *Reuters and AP*



FAMED FISH
Workers at the department of fish studies at the National Museum of Kenya display Nov. 19 a Coelacanth fish caught by Kenyan fishermen at the coastal town of Malindi in April this year. There are few species of this deep sea fish which was thought to have vanished with the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. This particular strain gives birth to young "pups" as opposed to laying eggs.
REUTERS

25 killed in Russian jet crash; probers do not rule out terrorism

MOSCOW—An act of terrorism may have caused a Russian passenger plane to crash during a flight from Siberia to Moscow, killing all 25 people on board, according to a local air transport chief.

At the moment that the plane, travelling at 7,800 meters, disappeared from radar screens, a bright glow was seen and a strong explosion was heard, said Victor Ossipov, air chief for the Krasnoyarsk area in Russia's north eastern Siberian region, citing local witness accounts.

Ossipov voiced astonishment that the plane's pilots had not indicated any problems during the flight, the Ria Novosti news agency reported.

A terrorist act "is only one of the possibilities, but it is impossible to rule it out," Ossipov was quoted as saying.

All 25 people on board the plane died when the turboprop aircraft crashed four-and-a-half hours into its flight to Moscow from the Siberian town of Khatanga.

The Ilyushin IL-18 came down around 20 km from the village of Kalyazin, in the northern Tver region, after disappearing from radar screens at 9:24 p.m. Monday, the emergencies ministry said.

It was carrying 18 passengers and seven crew members, the ministry said. Earlier reports had spoken of just six crew members and 24 people dead.

Local residents heard a loud explosion before the plane hit the ground, NTV television reported.

Debris from the crashed plane was scattered over more than a kilometer, some of it falling into the back yards of nearby homes.

The plane's black-box flight data recorders were swiftly recovered and it was hoped they would reveal the cause of the crash. An investigation was underway.

Emergency ministry experts were rushed to the crash scene and a thorough search of the wreckage for clues was due to begin at daybreak.

The Ilyushin IL-18 is a four-propeller aircraft able to seat around 100 passengers. It first started service in 1957 and was used in Russia and former Soviet states for regional flights.

Since 1960, there have been 79 crashes of IL-18s, both commercial and military, according to the Aviation Safety Network, an independent group that keeps data on air disasters. *AFP*

US announces Mideast peace mission

JERUSALEM—US Secretary of State Colin Powell has spelled out Washington's vision for peace in the Middle East and announced a diplomatic mission, but offered no solutions to Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Setting out US Middle East policy in a speech on Monday at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, Powell said two US mediators would be sent to "prod" peace moves forward based on a truce-to-talks plan agreed in April.

His speech reiterated US calls for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and demanded action from both sides to end almost 14 months of bloodshed in which nearly 900 people have died. He won cautious praise from both sides.

President George W. Bush wants calm to bolster Arab support for the US-led war on terror following the Sept. 11 suicide plane attacks on Washington and New York.

But fresh violence underlined the obstacles the United States faces in the region, where numerous international ceasefire deals have failed to take root over the past year.

Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian as he tried to plant explosives near a Jewish settlement in the West Bank on Monday, Israeli and Palestinian officials said.

Three Israeli settlers were wounded in a drive-by shooting in the West Bank. Three Palestinians were hurt in an hour-long Israeli incursion into the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza.

The sides traded recriminations over an Israeli tank raid that killed two Palestinians and damaged an American school in the Gaza Strip late on Sunday.

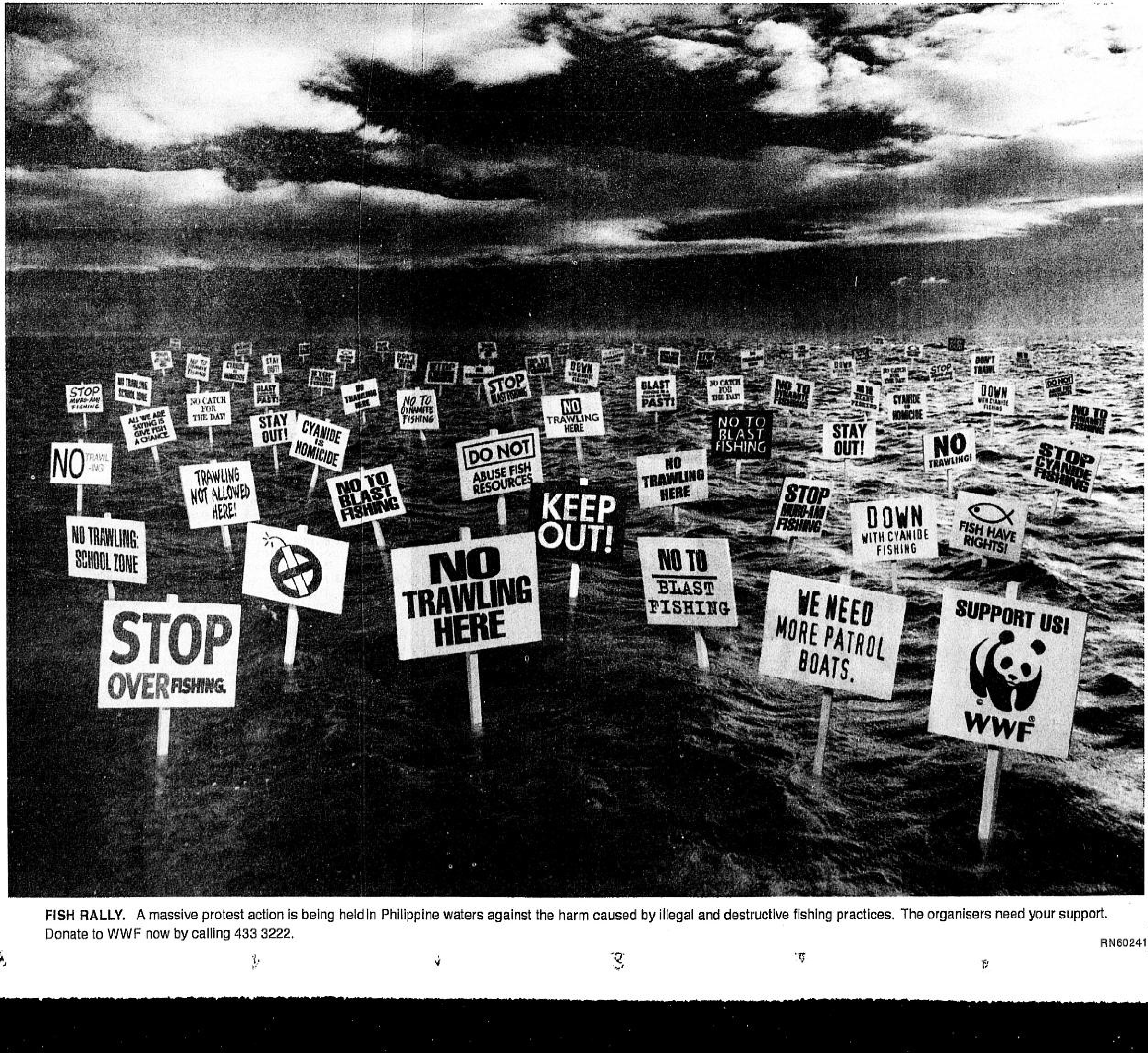
At least 710 Palestinians and 188 Israelis have been killed since a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation erupted in September 2000 after peace talks stalled.

In his much-awaited policy statement, Powell set out a vision of peace, prosperity and tolerance in the Middle East and asked Israelis and Palestinians to help make it a reality.

Answering criticism that the Bush administration has kept its distance from Middle East diplomacy, Powell said the United States was ready to take the lead in helping Israelis and Palestinians reach a lasting peace.

Powell said Bush had asked Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William Burns to return to the Middle East later this week for consultations. *Reuters*

This space was provided by Philippine Daily Inquirer, a Corporate Partner of WWF-Philippines. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



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Critics prepare charges vs Chavit

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Critics of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson have vowed to hound him with a string of cases on the alleged irregularities committed by the provincial government.

The Save Ilocos Sur Alliance and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Ilocos Sur chapter said they would go to court, "in the name of truth," starting this week to expose the alleged anomalies involving the disbursement of Ilocos Sur funds under Singson.

Lawyer Estelita Cordero of the IBP-Ilocos Sur chapter said the charges against Singson would be based on Commission on Audit reports, most of which were prepared by slain Ilocos Sur auditor Agustin Chan Jr.

"We are just collating the documents," said Cordero, also the Sisa Metro Manila coordinator.

She said they have "much better" and "solid evidence," compared to Singson when he exposed former President Joseph Estrada's alleged links to illegal gambling.

"If they believed the former governor's jueteng journal, even if its authorship was doubtful, wouldn't you believe these COA reports that carry the seal of the government?" Cordero said in Filipino.

Singson denied the allegations of anomalies hurled by Sisa and the IBP and dared them to make good their threats.

"*Kung may ebidensiya sila,* mag-file *sila at siguraduhin lang nila dahil bubuweltahan ko sila* (If they have evidence against me, they should file the cases. They should make sure that they have strong evidence or else I would get back at them)," Singson told the INQUIRER.

Cordero said they have enough evidence to pin down Singson.

"I am challenging former Governor Singson that anyone of us who would be found lying should agree to be shot at Plaza Burgos," Cordero said.

Plaza Burgos is the main park of Vigan City named in honor of Filipino martyr Fr. Jose Burgos.

Cordero claimed that under Singson's leadership, the provincial government ventured into anomalous projects and transactions that resulted in the loss of millions of pesos in public funds.

She said under Singson, the provincial government had produced white elephant projects like the Multiline Food Processing Plant (MFPP) and the Tomato Paste Processing Plant (TPPP).

The INQUIRER obtained a copy of the outline of the 1997-1998 COA annual audit reports that showed the construction of the MFPP was overpriced.

The plant cost was originally estimated at P136.5 million while actual payment for the plant was P170 million or a discrepancy of P33.5 million.

The plant also lost P17.6 million in 1998 because it stopped functioning several times.

The COA report said there was an irregular fund disbursement when the provincial government granted financial assistance to the Southern Ilocos Sur Federation of Tobacco Based Cooperatives for the construction of MFPP. This has resulted in the confusion on the accountability of funds, the report said.

The TPPP was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a private corporation under the Ilocos Sur Tomato Paste Plant Inc. (ISTPI). Its formation was not authorized by the Ilocos Sur provincial board, the report said.

The registration made the plant a separate private entity, which is distinct and separate from the province.

The COA recommended to the provincial government to reclassify the ISTPI as a public corporation.

The civil works payment for the plant also exceeded by P41,127,537.51, the report said.

The COA also questioned the construction of 34 modules tobacco flue curing and redrying facilities in the province.

The P360.638-million project was awarded to Fastduc Builders although the fund available for the project was only P76 million.

The 15 percent mobilization fee of P54.095 million was paid to the contractor although there were no definite sites for the 34 modules.

Singson accused Cordero of serving as the Estrada's "mouthpiece" in Ilocos Sur.

₱500,000 loss seen in city fiesta

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Still reeling from a P40 million budget deficit because of a reduction in its Internal Revenue Allotment, this city may yet suffer half a million pesos more in losses as it prepares to celebrate its 53rd charter anniversary.

The city's final budget for the Nov. 24-25 celebration showed that the total expected revenue through sponsorships, donations and rentals during the feast only amounts to P1,349,405 while expenses would reach P1,850,187.25.

Among the biggest income-generating activities is the trade fair, which includes the Baratillo sa Parke, Unabia Circus and Lescian Circus, among others. This, according to the budget estimate, will earn for the city P743,381.

The city council earlier authorized Mayor Agustin Perdices to enter into a contract with the carnival operators. But one week later, the administration councilors outvoted the opposition into reversing its resolution because the contract between the carnival operators and Perdices would mean that the money collected would automatically go to the city's coffers and could not be used to defray the expenses for the fiesta.

The Sandurot Festival, which retraces in dance and drama the arrival of foreigners into the shores of Dumaguete and was held Monday, cost the city government P256,000 in publicity, promotions, production cost, seed money for contestants, prizes, miscellaneous fees.

But with expected revenue of P61,675, the net loss of the Sandurot and the "Little Master" and "Miss Dumaguete" contests fell to P112,325.

Another major losing event this year is the Miss Dumaguete pageant, which, despite an income of P243,040, will still incur a net loss of P187,260.

Perdices earlier said that aside from the solicitations made by the fiesta committee, city officials are also making a souvenir program, which will sell advertisements.

The mayor said they would be forced to cut expenses if they fail to hit the P1.8 million target revenue.

Perdices, however, said all funds, including solicitations, will be accounted for, despite concerns by opposition councilors that fiesta funds are generally not subject to auditing procedures.

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₱60,000 EACH

25,000 teachers demand back pay

ANGELES CITY—More than 25,000 public schoolteachers in Central Luzon are pressing for the payment of at least P61,000 each in compensation for costs of living allowance (Cola) which has been discontinued since 1989 following the implementation of the salary standardization law.

Sixty leaders of the Central Luzon Public School Teachers Association pressed this demand before the Department of Budget and Management in a resolution approved during last Monday's regional teachers assembly of the Action and Solidarity for the Empowerment of Teachers (Assert).

Rey Antonio, Assert chair, said public schoolteachers were entitled to a P500-monthly Cola before the law was enforced.

Antonio said his group and the CLPSTA began claiming the unpaid Cola after several government agencies had favorably acted on similar requests.

Documents obtained by the CLPSTA and the Assert showed that officials of the Department of Justice's Office of the Government Corporate Counsel authorized last August the release of Cola for their personnel.

The legal department of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, on the other hand, recommended last September the payment of Cola for the commission's personnel.

In both cases, OGCC and PCGG officials invoked the Supreme Court's 1998 decision saying that the DBM's Corporate Compensation Circular No. 10, issued in October 1989 and which discontinued the benefits, was ineffective.

This was so because the circular, as an implementing rule to Republic Act 6758 or the salary standardization law, never saw print in the official gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

The circular said payment for allowances and fringe benefits on top of the basic salary after Nov. 1, 1989 is "considered as illegal disbursement of public funds."

"Since the circular was ineffective from the very start, public schoolteachers are still entitled to the Cola withheld from them since 1989," Antonio told reporters.

The circular only took effect after its publication on Nov. 1, 1999, it was learned.

Carlos Castro, Assert vice chair, said teachers realized the non-payment of Cola only after the Department of Education began furnishing them copies of their pay slips late last year.

The DepEd provided the pay slips on the request of senators and congressmen who investigated private firms that charged as much as 120 percent in interest rates on loans obtained by teachers.

The pay slips and salary rates in the service records of teachers did not indicate any payment for Cola or other allowances during the last 10 years, Castro said in a statement. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

₱70M in DOH info materials left to rot

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Undistributed campaign materials worth more than P70 million are reportedly rotting at the storeroom of the Department of Health regional office here.

Dr. Eduardo Janairo, newly designated DOH regional director, said the unused information materials come in the form of expensive booklets, flip charts, manuals, posters and pamphlets, many of which have become useless and outdated.

He said the information materials deal with a complete range of health issues and programs, such as malaria control, maternal health care, tuberculosis, anti-smoking campaign, anti-rabies program and proper hygiene among children.

"Imagine what this could have done if they fell into the hands of parents, students or health workers," Janairo said.

"This may explain why there had been very few information materials being displayed or distributed in schools, health centers and to non-government organizations."

An assistant regional director for eight months, Janairo assumed as acting DOH regional director after Dr. Merceditas Gavaneyro retired last Sept. 23.

But Janairo said the non-distribution of the materials could not be immediately attributed to his predecessor, as he noted many of the materials even date back to 10 years ago.

Janairo said the P70 million, which is bigger than the annual budget of P39 million for the DOH in the region, could have been used to hire additional health personnel, buy medical equipment and medicines or improve existing health facilities. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

8 face suit over cash advance scam

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—The city council has recommended the preventive suspension and filing of charges against the city treasurer, three disbursing officers and four city council staffers who were allegedly involved in a P16-million cash advance scam.

After a two-month investigation, however, the city council failed to prove who masterminded the fiasco and concluded that the staff, on their own, colluded with each other to defraud the city.

Recommended for preventive suspension were City Treasurer Florentino Flores, disbursing officers Alejandra Calimlim, Josefina de la Cruz and Rosie Macaranas; stenographers Belen Calimlim and Carolina Bagtas; clerk Freddy de la Cruz, and Isidoro Melendez, a street cleaner.

The city council was only able to trace P3.6 million of the P16 million cash advances because, it claimed, the documents were already in the possession of the Commission on Audit.

"Unfortunately, the COA refused to give us copies of the vouchers and to attend the investigation despite our invitations," the councilors said.

In a 14-page report to Mayor Benjamin Lim, the council said "no Dagupeño deserved a thief for a public servant," and that the city "will go to the dogs if the local leadership does not cut the bond that ties the thieves with the system."

City officials, mostly members of the city council whose names appeared in the vouchers, denied having made the cash advances and claimed that their signatures in the vouchers and their supporting documents were either missing or forged.

The council did not specify how long the preventive suspension of the erring employees would last.

Charges of malversation of public funds were recommended against Flores, Alejandra Calimlim, Bagtas and Melendez; falsification of public documents against Calimlim; illegal use of public funds against Calimlim, De la Cruz and Macaranas; removal, concealment or destruction of documents against Calimlim and Bagtas; swindling against De la Cruz and Melendez; and estafa through falsification of public documents against Belen Calimlim.

The council also recommended the investigation of former Vice Mayor Teodoro Manaois by the COA.

It also asked Manaois to submit his signature to the National Bureau of Investigation to find out if the signature in one voucher was his.

Manaois was also asked to explain why he failed to liquidate about P2 million he reportedly withdrew from the city treasury.

The erring personnel, the council said, withdrew and released unaccounted or improperly accounted money from the city treasury for various expenses such as purchase of cellular phone call cards, office supplies, vehicle spare parts and cash advances for employees' salaries.

The council said De la Cruz, a clerk, was able to advance P821,000 to buy office supplies, but spent only P100,000. De la Cruz said he could not liquidate the amount because he had lost the receipts. He was able to repay the city treasury P421,000 before he was questioned by the council.

"De la Cruz lived beyond his means and had even traveled out of the country despite his meager salary," the council said.

Melendez, a street sweeper, said he used the money to repair the engine of a vehicle assigned to the office of the vice mayor. It was found, however, that the vehicle had no more engine even before he advanced the money.

Alejandra Calimlim said P1.4 million was stolen from the cash vault in August 2000 but she did not report it to the police. She said she borrowed money to cover the missing funds.

The council did not believe her, saying she used the money for personal purposes.

Flores, who said he allowed the disbursement of money even if the documents were not complete because of humanitarian reasons, admitted he did not audit the disbursing officers because he had no time to do it.

He said he was not aware of any cash shortages until the COA released its findings last September, even if he signed some of the vouchers for the cash advances.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RETIREMENT AUTHORITY

NOTICE

Subject: **CANCELLATION OF SRR VISAS & INCLUSION IN THE BLACKLIST OF THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (1ST BATCH)**

Pursuant to PRA Board Resolution No. 19, series of 1996 dated 27 August 1996, notice is hereby given that the Special Resident Retiree's Visas (SRRV) of Philippine Retirement Authority members listed below shall, after fifteen (15) days from date of this publication, be recommended for cancellation and inclusion in the blacklist of the Bureau of Immigration for failure/refusal to pay the Visitorial fee after due notice.

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Division Chief III

BENJAMIN S. SANTOS
Acting Chief Executive Officer
And General Manager

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0263	HAO, JAMES E.	American	2815	CHUNG NUEN PUI	British (HK)
0264	MYAING, MYINT MYINT	American	3263	YUNG WAI KIU	British (HK)
0353	RAMNANI, HARIH C.	American	2487	LAL, THAKURDAS N.	British (HK)
0392	ANTONIO, CIRILO T.	American	0439	TED LEE YOK ENG	British (HK)
0348	BELMONTE, PANALIG R.	American (FF)	0308	YEE WONG LING	British (HK)
0257	FELIX, FRANCES R.	American (FF)	0657	YEE, EDWIN	British (HK)
0186	FELIX RAMON A.	American (FF)	0464	YUE SAM SHAU	British (HK)
0127	GONZALES, MADELINE B.	American (FF)	0424	YEE SEE	Canadian
0128	GONZALES, DENISE B.	American (FF)	0265	PANGANIBAN, NARDO V.	Canadian (FF)
0129	GONZALES, MADELINE ANNE	American (FF)	0468	CHIANG PUI SAN	Chinese (HK)
0382	LIM, BETTY Y.	American (FF)	0154	CHIU KUNG HUI JOHN	Chinese (HK)
0179	MARTINEZ, ZENAIDA B.	American (FF)	0342	HELEN WANG	Chinese (HK)
0428	MASANGKAY, PURIFICACION Q.	American (FF)	1806	HUI KA TUK	Chinese (HK)
			1940	XU DAN FANG	Chinese (HK)
0372	PAGLINAWAN, RENAN C.	American (FF)	1941	XU DAN NI	Chinese (HK)
0481	PESARILLO, ADALLA S.	American (FF)	0340	KOT KIT	Chinese (HK)
0195	QUILINO, SIXTO M.	American (FF)	0438	NG KWUN MING	Chinese (HK)
0319	REYES, ARMANDO L.	American (FF)	0387	NG SHUI CHEUNG	Chinese (HK)
0137	SICAM, RODOLFO CLAUDIO	American (FF)	0753	NG LAI PIK SHAN	Chinese (HK)
0146	SICAM, ROMEL	American (FF)	0925	NG CALEBYUET CHUEN	Chinese (HK)
0147	SICAM, RODNEY	American (FF)	0121	SIK WING TONG DAVID	Chinese (HK)
0328	SISON, JOSE A.	American (FF)	0124	YIU OI TAI	Chinese (HK)
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1541	MANALO, ELAINE	British	0126	CHEN QINGHAN	Chinese (PROC)
0465	RAMNANI, SITA C.	British	2992	CUI JINSHENG	Chinese (PROC)
0365	UTAMCHANDANI, HARGUNDAS T.	British	2589	FANG JINRONG	Chinese (PROC)
			1572	HUANG HANTENG	Chinese (PROC)
0588	UTAMCHANDANI, PADMA HARGUNDAS	British	1360	HUANG YANGXING	Chinese (PROC)
			1361	LI YING ZHI	Chinese (PROC)
0287	ALAMO, ELVIRA A.	British (FF)	1362	HUANG XIONG WEI	Chinese (PROC)
0288	ALAMO, EDGAR	British (FF)	1992	LIN QINGTA	Chinese (PROC)
0289	ALAMO, GERARD	British (FF)	1993	GUO MIANMIAN	Chinese (PROC)
1559	PURVES, SYLVIA I.	British (FF)	1994	LIN YULING	Chinese (PROC)
1560	PURVES, ROBERT	British (FF)	1995	LIN YUQUAN	Chinese (PROC)
1561	PURVES, MICHAEL	British (FF)	1996	LIN YUWEN	Chinese (PROC)
0539	CHUA SZE SOOK MEE	British (FF)	1489	LIN XIAOLING	Chinese (PROC)
0597	CHUA YAU BUN	British (FF)	1300	LIN TSONGCHING	Chinese (PROC)
0598	CHUA YAU DON	British (FF)	1301	CHEN SANHUI	Chinese (PROC)

Cop tells court 4 teeners were teacher's killers

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A police investigator testified in court on Friday linking the four teenagers, including the son of a town mayor, to the Oct. 2 killing of public schoolteacher Naido Chirivias.

SPO1 Genaro Nodado, of the Valencia municipal police station, told the court that the four teenagers were last seen by witnesses with the teacher before he was found dead in Barangay West Balabag of the town.

The policeman was presented as a prosecution witness during the preliminary investigation on Friday, after Valencia Municipal Trial Court Judge Tirso Chirivias denied the motion of the lawyers of the four teenagers to postpone the preliminary investigation.

The court instead ordered the prosecution to present its witnesses and evidence to determine if there is probable cause to link the four teenagers to the killing.

Nodado testified that he received a report at 9 a.m. on Oct. 2 that a body, later identified as that of Chirivias, was discovered somewhere in West Balabag, Valencia. The body was found without his footwear, T-shirt and personal belongings.

The police investigator said they were able to establish the identities of the suspects from the testimony of witnesses who had seen Chirivias in the company of the four teenagers at 6 p.m. and then at 7:45 p.m. of Oct. 1 at Ceriaco Espina Road, Barangay Taclobo in Dumaguete City.

The witnesses, Nodado added, saw three of the suspects in the same motorcycle with the victim while the fourth suspect drove the teacher's red Honda Dream motorcycle.

He said two of the suspects were also identified by a witness during a police lineup at the Dumaguete City Police Station. The witness claimed the two were the ones he saw with Chirivias riding in a Honda motorcycle at 8:30 p.m. of Oct. 1 at the exact spot where Chirivias' body was found the following day.

PO1 Agapito Sumagang of the Dumaguete Police Station also testified Friday that he and other policemen found an abandoned motorcycle which they later learned was owned by Chirivias.

He also presented before the court the jacket and T-shirt worn by the teacher when he was found. The clothes had bloodstains and holes allegedly caused by repeated stabbing.

The legal counsels of the accused, meanwhile, registered a continuing objection over the conduct of the preliminary investigation.

Lawyer Alfredo Orquillas Jr. said the court went overboard when it directed the submission on Friday of the counter-affidavits of the accused. "We are already at the second stage of the investigation because of this requirement," he said.

Orquillas, along with fellow defense lawyers Raymund Mercado and Alvin Asinero, questioned the court's order as the subpoena issued by the same court stated that they have until Nov. 23 to submit their counter-affidavits.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Bicol region and Eastern Visayas. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 22° Lo 12°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 19°
Legazpi	Widespread Rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Widespread Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/21/01

ROUNDUP

Measles kill 4

ALABEL, Sarangani—Four persons died while 41 others were hospitalized due to an outbreak of measles in the remote barangay of Tamban, Malungon town, said provincial health officer Dr. Antonio Yasaña. Yasaña said that as early as Nov. 7, his office received reports that quite a number of residents, majority of them children aged 14 and below had measles. He said he immediately sent a team of health workers to the area. The disease has already been contained, he said.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Traders nix wage hike

DIPOLOG CITY—Businessmen here frowned on the P125 across-the-board wage increase approved by the House labor committee. A survey by the Dipolog City Chamber of Commerce and Industry revealed that only 10 percent favored the wage hike. Other businessmen did not answer the question, said Edwin Capili, the chamber's president. Capili also said 45 percent of those surveyed expressed disapproval of the government's plan to declare a longer Christmas holiday.

Lullie Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Shabu seized

MASINLOC, Zambales—Police recovered 16 kilos of shabu along the coastline of Barangay Bani here on Saturday. The shabu, placed inside a fertilizer sack, was believed part of the 334 kilos of shabu confiscated by policemen on Nov. 15 in San Narciso town. Supt. Jaime Calungsod Jr., Zambales police director, said the latest confiscation was a result of the police search for illegal drugs believed dropped off in the Zambales coastline.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

2 village guards hunted

AGOO, La Union—Police are hunting two barangay *tanods* who allegedly shot a son of an American couple in Barangay Capas here on Oct. 27. Allan Money Emperador, 39, was pacifying three men who had attended a drinking party, when he was shot allegedly by Rey Boado and Tony Pineda, members of the barangay police force and bodyguards of Barangay Captain Felizardo Villanueva.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Murder witness killed

SAN ILDEFONSO, Bulacan—A farmer, said to be one of the primary witnesses in the slaying of a Bulacan mayor, was stabbed and killed by a man in his house in Barangay Lapnit here on Friday. Police said Alfredo Garcia, 37, was watching television in his house when he was attacked by the suspect, who fled. Police sources said Garcia was among the witnesses in the murder of Doña Remedios Trinidad Mayor Esteban Paulino in Angat town last year.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Boulders block traffic

LEGAZPI CITY—Volcanic debris, including huge boulders, carried by rampaging floodwaters from the slopes of Mayon Volcano to the Basud River rendered the Basud spillway impassable for the past two days. Residents of the third district who are working or studying here had to skip work or classes or take the long route via Sablayon or Ligao to come here. Officials said millions of cubic meters of volcanic debris are still deposited on the slopes of the volcano.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drug pusher nabbed

LUCENA CITY—Police captured Joan Malabanan, a suspected drug pusher who used to operate in Candelaria town. Malabanan, 41, reportedly the estranged wife of a police official in Quezon province, was arrested during a buy-bust operation in Barangay I here. Task Force Sagip-Dagit, local police anti-drug team has arrested at least 20 other suspected drug pushers and users during the past month, police said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Fire razes school

SARIAYA, Quezon—A fire caused by faulty electrical wiring razed a seven-classroom building in Barangay Lutucan here on Sunday. The burned building, located in the western part of the Lutucan National High School Compound, was estimated to be worth P1.5 million. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Drug test hit

LUCENA CITY—The head of the Quezon police provincial crime laboratory here has assailed the newly imposed drug test for driving license applicants. Sr. Insp. Rufina Baldovino said an applicant could easily get a positive result just by avoiding taking drugs or undergoing a "cleansing process." Baldovino said the test is a waste of time and money. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Troops alarm village folk

TULUNAN, North Cotabato—Officials and residents here said the presence of government troopers, not rebels, alarm them most.

Civilians have already fled their homes to avoid getting caught in the crossfire.

Since last month, residents of at least five barangays here have been questioning the presence of soldiers belonging to the 38th, 39th and 40th Infantry Divisions of the Philippine Army.

Local officials in Barangays Bakung, Batang, Guangan, Caridad, Lampanag, and Bituan also questioned the government forces' presence here.

These barangays are considered peace zones following the signing of an agreement between local leaders and the military.

A local official confirmed that New People's Army rebels were sighted in the area.

"(But) they just come and go," said Batang Barangay *kagawad* Rudy Cadungan.

Batang Barangay chair Romeo Bagaforo said Tulunan is an NPA-infested area.

Meanwhile, the Army's 6th ID spokesperson Maj. Julieto Ando said residents should not be worried of the soldiers' presence. He said the soldiers were there to guard the development projects being introduced in the area.

Cause-oriented groups earlier conducted a fact-finding mission here following reports of human rights violations allegedly committed by the soldiers.

The fact-finding team said residents were in constant fear of being caught in the crossfire if clashes between soldiers and rebels erupted.

The team also said children have stopped going to school as classrooms were allegedly used as soldiers' camp.

Ando denied the allegations. ***Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Cyanide smugglers charged

DIPOLOG CITY—The Environmental and Management Bureau (EMB) here filed formal charges against alleged smugglers who were caught transporting some 800 kilos of cyanide in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay a week ago.

Named respondents in the charges filed before the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Ipil for violation of Republic Act 6969, otherwise known as The Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes and Control Act, were Edlurindo Monarca, vice president of Monte de Oro Small Scale Processing Plant Association Inc., based in Tiboli, South Cotabato, and truck driver Gomer Caminande, a resident of Midsalip, Zamboanga del Norte.

The cyanide, along with 80 sacks of activated carbon, was confiscated while being transported on board an Isuzu cargo truck.

It was intercepted in an Environment and Natural Resources Management Division checkpoint.

The chemicals were placed inside 16 drums. ***Lullie Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

First in Asia!

ASIAN ETHNIC FOOD FEST 2001

23 - 25 November 2001 • World Trade Center Metro Manila • Pasay City, Philippines

The Asian Ethnic Food Fest is a must-attend fair, offering a diverse selection of food products. AEFF gets bigger and better, and this is the first time the show will be held at the World Trade Center. This year, there are 160 exhibitors, and the product mix now includes kitchen implements and accessories.

Partner Region Program

This year's Partner Region Program highlights the rich produce of Region 9. Bounties from the Sea features fresh and processed marine products from the region.

Kakanin Festival

The *Kakanin* Festival features the Philippine *Kakanin* Industry in traditional forms and presentations. Highlighting the festival is a giant *kakanin* which visitors can sample.

The Asian Table

Take an exotic journey to India, Indonesia, Japan, and Thailand with a presentation of elaborate table settings in traditional and contemporary styles from: Benjarong Royal Thai, Inagiku, People's Palace, Raj, and Kassa, Inc. The Philippines will present table settings reflective of different lifestyles with input from Asia Society members. B at Home, Soumak, Custom Clay, Firma, Light Structures, MZR, and Via Mare provide some of the furniture and accessories.

Brand Development Program

The Brand Development Program presents the "Milestones" of products that are unmistakably Filipino: *lambanog* (distilled coconut wine), *banaba*, *kalamansi* (Philippine lemon), and mango.

COOK's Trendiest Packaging Make-over

Highlights the "before and after" packaging designs of existing food products. "Dressed-up" items are envisioned to be image boosters for Philippine products.

COOK's Trendiest Products

New and innovative products that will appeal to even the most discriminating tastes are in this competition.

Best Philippine Food Ideas

A cooking contest for students on all levels. See budding chefs prepare their original recipes on the spot using banner products such as *ube*, coconut, mango and *kalamansi*.

Cooking Demos

Well-respected international and local chefs give cooking demonstrations, together with last year's winners of the AEFF's Best Philippine Food Ideas contest. Day 1 features demos on Philippine Cuisine; Day 2 presents Asian-Global and Trendy food; Day 3 will showcase Health Cuisine.

GARDEN & PETS SHOW

Nature in Harmony

The Garden and Pets Show offers a rich variety and breathtaking array of Philippine flora and ornamental plants, plus an assortment of garden equipment, supplies and other related services.

Latest findings from ornamental horticulture research and seminars on floriculture crafts and landscape designs will also be featured.

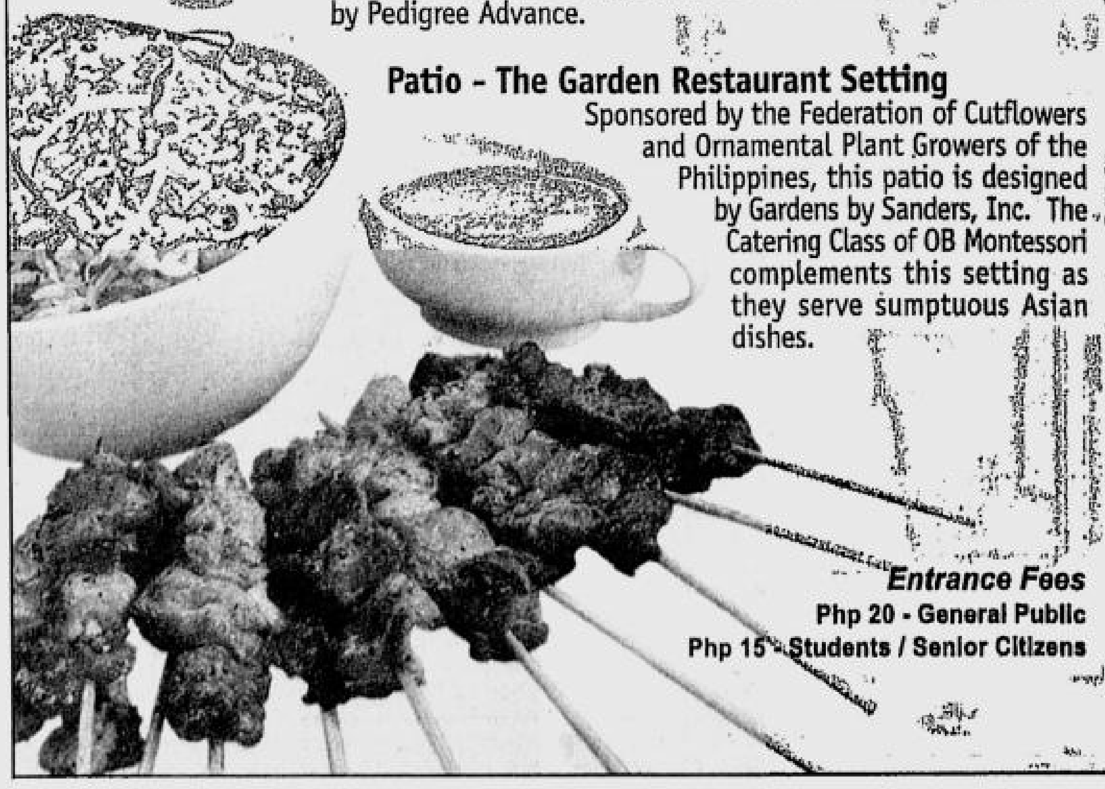
Dogs, cats, and other pets as well as different species of colorful aquarium fish will be showcased. Suppliers of pet accessories will be on hand to offer items that can spruce up the appearance of pets and enrich their habitats.

Protection Dog Demo

The Philippine Canine Club, Inc. will demonstrate how the protective instincts of dogs can be honed. This event is sponsored by Pedigree Advance.

Patio - The Garden Restaurant Setting

Sponsored by the Federation of Cutflowers and Ornamental Plant Growers of the Philippines, this patio is designed by Gardens by Sanders, Inc. The Catering Class of OB Montessori complements this setting as they serve sumptuous Asian dishes.



Entrance Fees

Php 20 - General Public

Php 15 - Students / Senior Citizens

SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS

DAY 1, 23 NOVEMBER 2001	TIME	VENUE
Retail Selling (Food/Plants/Pets)	10:00am-7:00pm	Halls/Outdoor
Bartending: Philippine *Lambanog*	10:30am-11:30p	Halls
Cooking Demo: Mega Sardines	12:15pm-1:00pm	Halls
Seminar: Food Packaging: Your Silent Salesman	1:00pm-5:30pm	Seminar Room A
Sponsored by INFOMAPP		
Seminar: Basic Principles of GMP & HACCP	1:00pm-5:30pm	Seminar Room B
By: Food Development Center		
Best Philippine Food Ideas	1:00pm-4:00pm	Halls
Cooking Contest: Sugar and Spice		
Cooking Demo: Mindanao Foods	3:00pm-3:30pm	Halls
Bartending : Philippine *Lambanog*	3:00pm-3:30pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: COOK	3:30pm-4:00pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: RFM	4:30pm-5:15pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: Cainta's *Kakanin* Makers	5:15pm-6:00pm	Halls
DAY 2, 24 NOVEMBER 2001		
Retail Selling (Food/Plants/Pets)	10:00am-7:00pm	Halls/Outdoor
Seminar: FCOPGOP Lecture Series	10:00am-5:30pm	Seminar Room A
(Fee: 250.00) Sponsored by FCOPGP		
- Design Gardens Like a Pro by Shirley Sanders		
- Dish Gardening by King Louis Flowers & Plants		
- Nice n' Easy Floral Arrangement by Floral Arts and Crafts Design Center		
- Pressed Flower Making by Puentespina Orchids & Tropical Plants, Inc.		
Seminar: US Food Labeling Requirements	10:00am-12:00nn	Seminar Room B
by the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion		
Dog Show: Protection Dog Demo	10:00am-5:00pm	Outdoor
by The Philippine Canine Club		
Bartending: Philippine Lambanog	10:30am-11:30pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: Tentay Food Sauces	10:45am-11:30am	Halls
Cooking Demo: Alson's Aqua	11:30am-12:15pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: Via Mare	12:15pm-1:00pm	Halls
Best Philippine Food Ideas	1:00pm-4:00pm	Halls
Cooking Contest: Noodles with a Twist		
Seminar: Exporting to Emerging Economies	1:00pm-5:00pm	Seminar Room B
and the Ethnic Food Market by Tom Medina		
Cooking Demo: Liberty Food Commodities	3:00pm-3:30pm	Halls
Bartending: Philippine Lambanog	3:00pm-3:30pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: Century Tuna	3:30pm-4:00pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: Silver Swan	4:30pm-5:15pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: Marigold Commodities	5:15pm-6:00pm	Halls
Awarding Ceremonies: Best Booth,	6:00pm-7:30pm	Halls
COOK's Trendiest Product Contest, and		
COOK's Trendiest Packaging Make-over Competition		
DAY 3, 25 NOVEMBER 2001		
Retail Selling (Food/Plants/Pets)	10:00am-7:00pm	Halls/Outdoor
Seminar: Branded Food Products	10:00am-11:30am	Seminar Room A
and Ingredients by Mr. Tom Medina		
Bartending: Philippine Lambanog	10:30am-11:30pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: Sysu International	10:45am-11:30am	Halls
Cooking Demo: Florence Food Corp	11:30am-12:15pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: SR Seafoods	12:15pm-1:00pm	Halls
Best Philippine Food Ideas	1:00pm-4:00pm	Halls
Cooking Contest: Up In Flames		
Seminar: Guinea Pig Care by Vic Chin	1:00pm-3:00pm	Seminar Room A
Seminar: Basic Pet Care by Bio Research	1:00pm-4:00pm	Seminar Room A
Seminar: All About Asian Herbs and Spices	2:00pm-5:00pm	Seminar Room B
by Nancy Reyes-Lumen		
Organized by Asia Society Philippines		
Sponsored by McCORMICK		
Cooking Demonstrations by the Peninsula, Manila		
Cooking Demo: Moonbake	3:00pm-3:30pm	Halls
Bartending : Philippine Lambanog	3:00pm-3:30pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: COOK	3:30pm-4:00pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: OB Montessori	4:30pm-5:15pm	Halls
Cooking Demo: OB Montessori	5:15pm-6:00pm	Halls

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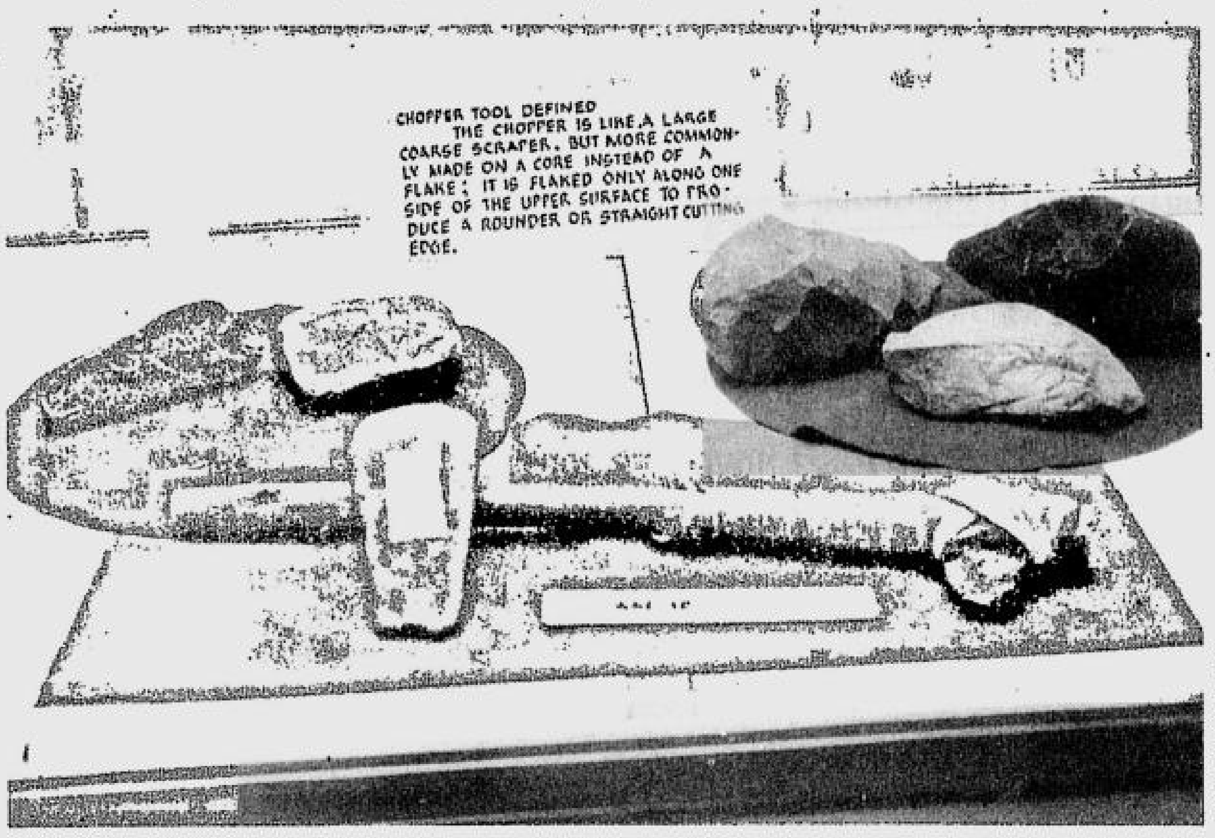
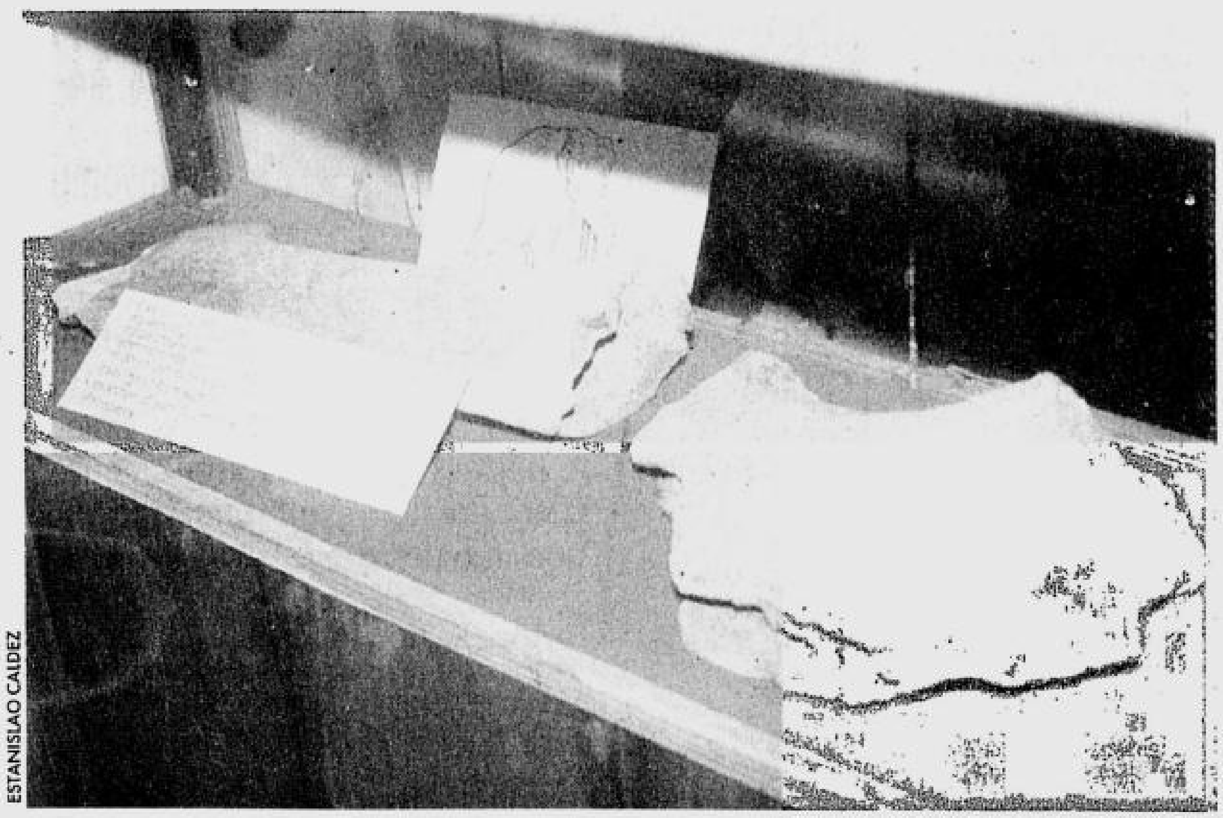

CHOPPER TOOL DEFINED
THE CHOPPER IS LIKE A LARGE COARSE SCRAPER, BUT MORE COMMONLY MADE ON A CORE INSTEAD OF A FLAKE; IT IS FLAKED ONLY ALONG ONE SIDE OF THE UPPER SURFACE TO PRODUCE A ROUNDER OR STRAIGHT CUTTING EDGE.

EVIDENCE of pre-historic life in Cagayan Valley are preserved at the Cagayan Museum in Tuguegarao City. Among these are stone tools—a hammer stone and chopper stone or scraper—used by the pre-historic inhabitants of the valley.



ESTANISLAO CALDEZ

BONES of stegodons or pygmy elephants unearthed in Cagayan Valley are on display at the Cagayan Museum. Stegodons, the ancestors of the present-day elephants, were believed to have roamed Cagayan through the land bridges from mainland Asia during the Pleistocene epoch.

Cagayan diggings yield clues to ancient man

BY ESTANISLAO CALDEZ
Cagayan

CAGAYAN'S lush forests and caves have yielded valuable artifacts that could contribute to the search for the first Philippine man.

After almost three decades of archeological search by local and foreign archeologists, diggings in two sites in Cagayan were found to complement earlier findings in Lallo town, where archeologists from the University of Tokyo and the National Museum discovered skeletal remains and artifacts.

The caves of Peñablanca town have yielded pebble, cobble and flake tools while the hills of Liwan in western Cagayan have yielded animal fossils.

In his report "Pioneers in Archeology," Wilfredo Ronquillo said these two sites excavated by foreign and Filipino archeologists gave out valuable artifacts in the search for the ancient Philippine man.

Animal fossils

Ronquillo said archeologists discovered fossils of ancient animals in Liwan, which lies in the border of Cagayan, Kalinga and Apayao. Liwan, which is part of Solana town, lies between the Cagayan and Chico rivers.

The fossils belonged to the *elephas* (ancient elephant), rhinoceroses, crocodiles, giant tortoises, pigs and deer.

The fossils and manmade stone tools were found on the "crowns, slopes and sides of gullies of ridges and hills, and were eroding from the surface of anticlines," the report said.

Ronquillo said the presence of the ancient man in the Philippine archipelago can be established through indirect evidence of manmade stone tools found in the same geological bed and the fossilized remains of "large, now extinct animals."

He said two kinds of manmade tools were discovered in the Cagayan Valley sites—the pebble core and core tools which constituted 10 percent of the finds and the flake and flake-core tools which accounted for 90 percent of the total collection.

Archeologists labeled the tools as part of the "Liwanian culture" after the area where these were found. Ronquillo said the tools belong to the "Liwanian industry."

He said large pebble or cobble tools were made by the use of stone hammers that removed the flakes and formed the sharp edges.

The raw materials used on the tools were igneous and highly weathered rock. Some of the stone tools weighed more than a kilogram and were made from river stones. Only one side of these tools had been worked on.

Toolmaking

Ronquillo said the archeological work at the Cagayan Valley sites in the 1970s showed that the predominant component of the Liwanian industry was the flake and flake-core tools. Flakes are smaller pieces of stone with sharp edges that separate when the stone is struck with a hammer stone.

If these tools needed re-sharpening, the pre-historic people, through a process called retouching, removed smaller flakes from the blunted working edge.

Both kinds of Paleolithic tools have been found with the fossilized remains of Pleistocene epoch animals. This revealed that the early man was "contemporaneous with extinct large animals."

To date, however, no fossilized skeletal remains of the early man have been discovered in Cagayan Valley. Only the skeletons of a man, believed to be those of an ancient man, were found in Lallo last year by Japanese and National Museum archaeologists.

Peñablanca Caves

The discoveries that other South Asian countries related to the search for the early man indicated that pre-historic people used caves for shelter.

The systematic archeological explorations of limestone areas in Peñablanca town, 15 km east of Tuguegarao City, began in 1976. These diggings hoped to confirm the presence of the prehistoric man as a contemporary of the large animals that once roamed Cagayan Valley.

Ronquillo said over 100 caves, rock shelters and open sites were discovered in the Peñablanca limestone formation. Archeological diggings from the late 1970s to the early 1980s revealed that more than half of the cave sites had been used by man during the pre-historic period.

From the Situ Caves in Peñablanca, pebble and cobble tools, flake and flake-core tools were unearthed. The stone tools were technologically similar, if not identical, to those found in other sites in Cagayan Valley, Ronquillo said.

The sites in the Peñablanca limestone formation are much younger than the fossils found in the region, which date back only to the post-Pleistocene epoch but not earlier than 10,000 B.C., according to Ronquillo.

But the recovery of technologically identical tools at the Peñablanca site is indicative of the persistence of the Paleolithic industry in Cagayan Valley, he said.

Early man

In 1976, joint ventures by archeologists and geologists of the National Museum and the Iowa State University studied the configuration and evolution of landform (geomorphology) and the period of time covering the origin, history and structure of the earth in Cagayan Valley's fossil sites.

The team came up with these findings:

- The Awidon mesa (plateau) formation was traced to the Middle Pleistocene epoch when a terrestrial vertebrate animal migrated to Cagayan Valley through at least one land bridge. The existence of a land bridge between Taiwan and Luzon, although suggested by fossil finds and the location of the two countries, cannot yet be proven today.
- All the vertebrate fossils found in Situ Caves were transported and buried in the coarse deposits or flood plains of small meandering streams in the area. The Awidon mesa formation was the name given to the 300-meter thick layer of Pleistocene epoch sediments of tuff (a rock formed of compacted volcanic fragments of varied composition). It was in the folds of this deposit that many fossilized remains of large animals were discovered.

The geological studies, according to Ronquillo's report, showed a mixture of fossil remains of large mammals and Paleolithic tools. These were transported as a result of the natural formation process and by the action of water.

The 1979 reinvestigation of archeological sites by a geologist of the National Museum confirmed that two flake stone tools earlier discovered by Robert Fox, then curator of the museum's anthropology division, and his team were deposited at the Awidon mesa formation.

The fossils of the large animals were said to have been deposited much earlier about 7,500 years before the burial of the tools.

"With the discovery of the remains of early man in China and Java, and the evidence in Cagayan Valley, the chances of future discovery of the fossils of the early man in the Philippines are very good," Ronquillo said.

THE ceiling of the San Jose Matulid chapel in Mexico, Pampanga. JUN MALIG

Chapel survives wars, disasters

BY JUN MALIG
Pampanga

IN THE MIDDLE of a sleepy village in Mexico, Pampanga, lies the 435-year-old San Jose Matulid chapel, an average-size house of worship built from 1561 to 1566.

Adelino Salazar, 63, who has been the chapel's caretaker since the 1960s, said residents of Mexico during the early Spanish colonial times used to come to the chapel of Barangay San Jose Matulid to hear Mass.

"In the old days, the people of Mexico come here to worship because this is the first chapel constructed in our hometown," he said, quoting oral local history.

The chapel is older than the Sta. Monica Parish (1569), which is also located in the town and other Spanish era parishes in Pampanga like the St. Augustine Parish in Lubao (1572), the St. Andrew Parish in Candaba (1575), and the San Guillermo Parish in Bacolor (1576).

The walls of the San Jose Matulid chapel are still made of the more than four-century-old adobe but its original bamboo roofing has already been replaced with galvanized iron.

Salazar said the chapel's original bell disappeared at the height of the Huk rebellion, shortly after World War II. Its original granite flooring, on the other hand, was allegedly sold by a former village chief in the 1960s when the town became the battleground between the Hukbong Magpapalaya ng Bayan guerrillas and government troops.

Big bell

"There are those who say that the big bell here went to the University of Assumption in San Fernando; others say it is the one in Camp Olivas; there are those who say that it went to the seminary," he said.

When the chapel was renovated in the early 1970s, Arnel Lagazon, 43, said silver

CHAPEL/ p.19

Clark toxic waste issue: Dismaying, disgracing

BY TONETTE OREJAS
Pampanga

FOR the descendants of aviation pioneer Maj. Harold M. Clark, for whom the former American air base in Pampanga was dedicated, the association of their forefather's name with military toxic wastes is dismaying, if not disgracing.

"We don't want the name of our forefather attached with a responsibility which we are unbelievably walking away from," Rosemary Hubbard, one of Clark's heirs, said of the United States' refusal to clean up Clark in Pampanga and the former Subic Naval Base in Zambales.

Disturbed by the toxic legacy attached to their forefather's name, the Clark clan held a reunion in Carolina last September.

There, they shared the cards of the late Crizel Jane Valencia, a 6-year-old Filipino girl who, while afflicted with leukemia from exposure to mercury-laden water at Clark, painted crayon drawings to raise the pollution problem at the former base.

Hubbard's husband Allen, a geologist working on environmental justice in North and South Carolina, was prompted by the Clark clan to write a letter to US President George W. Bush.

In a letter dated Nov. 1, Allen told the US President: "Other family members and I were dismayed to hear about the environmental catastrophe that has befallen the Philippine people as a result of toxic waste left on the base."

Allen, on behalf of his clan, urged Bush to take up the issue with President Macapagal-Arroyo when he meets her this week in Washington D.C.

He told Bush that at least 80 people have died from drinking contaminated water at the Clark Air Base evacuation center where 20,000 families were housed after Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991, or when Clark was ordered closed by the Philippine Senate.

"There are similar environmental problems at Subic, as well as the other former US bases in the Philippines," he said.

After the pullout in 1991, the US General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, identified 44 sites in various stages of contamination in Clark and Subic, two of the largest US military facilities outside the mainland.

"We hope that, as the larger, wealthier nation, you can take up the lead and raise this critically important environmental issue," Allen further told Bush.

The letter was also sent to American senators, the Hubbards said in their e-mail messages.

The Clark heirs first touched base with Filipino toxic waste victims last September when they joined the global conference on children's environmental health, where 57 countries participated, including the US and Canada.

There, they met leaders of the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup

CLARK / p.19

CRIZEL with her crayon drawing. FILE PHOTO

Clark toxic waste issue: Dismaying, disgracing

(From page 18)

(PTFBC).

"After the workshop, the Hubbards approached us and committed themselves to help Filipino toxic waste victims seek justice," Myrla Baldonado, PTFBC executive director, told the INQUIRER. "The support from the Clark family was overwhelming."

Born in Minnesota, Clark was reared in Manila by his father who was believed to have joined American soldiers in the country.

Records from the archives of the Clark Museum said Clark was barely past his 30s when he was commissioned in 1913 as second lieutenant of the US Cavalry, the first contingent to develop Clark, formerly known as Fort Stotsenburg.

In 1916, he was transferred to the aviation section of the Signal Corps, becoming a junior military aviator who commanded the air service station of the US in the then Hawaiian Island.

He was said to be the first US airman to fly to Hawaii, from which the US 13th Air Force operated the Philippine base.

Clark later became the executive officer of the US aviation section in Panama. He died in a plane crash at Mira Flor Locks in Panama on May 2, 1919.

Chapel

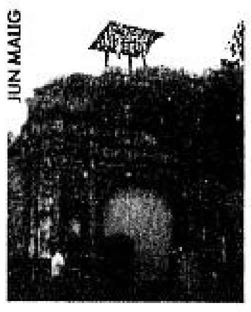
(From page 18)

Spanish coins were found beneath its floor. "I can still remember that, I was still small then, the workers found many silver coins," he said.

Nobody could tell who got the coins.

Lagazon said when he was in Grade 1, the ambassador of Mexico visited the chapel. "They even dressed up the chapel and the road then," he recalled.

Last year, Willy Katigbak of the Blue Birds Construction Co. headed the renovation of the chapel.



JUN MALIG

He sought the help of civic leaders in Pampanga to complete the renovation of the chapel's roofing, ceiling, altar and flooring.

Pacing Lagazon, 73, who lives beside the chapel, said diocesan priests from the town proper and the seminary in the City of San Fernando celebrate Mass in the chapel every Sunday and first Friday of each month.

Some historians say that the town of Mexico was named after the archaic term "masicu" which means "abundance" of water. Others say the town derived its name from the exotic chico fruit tree.

This town is located east of the capital City of San Fernando in the heart of Pampanga, 73 km from Metro Manila. Its primary agricultural products are rice, corn, fruits and vegetables. Fishpond and livestock industries also serve as sources of livelihood for its 95,000 residents.

Ang Bagong Mitsubishi L300 FB

Bagong Maaasahan Sa Negosyo

Ang bagong maaasahan sa pagsisimula sa negosyo, ang Mitsubishi L300 FB. Ngayon may bago't pinatibay na rear body, "Rock-kote" coated flooring at mas-malakas na dual aircon, kasama ng kinasanayang malakas at matipid na 4D56 2.5-liter diesel engine, maluwang na cabin, at power-steering para umalalay sa iyong hanapbuhay. Kompiyansa para sa enterpreneur.

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Comelec exec shot dead by 'hired killers'

(From page A1)

Alfredo Benipayo said.

Benipayo said he had received reports that he, Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason, along with Executive Director Mamasapunod Aguam, were the next targets.

"I did not imagine that somebody would sink to such depths," a clearly shaken Benipayo said at a press briefing yesterday.

Cinco, who served at the Comelec for 33 years, had been receiving death threats several weeks before her death, but she had brushed aside advice to employ security personnel.

She had told friends that she did not think the threats were serious, saying she "didn't think they would do it," although she had refused to name names.

"I'm not pointing my finger at anyone, but we all know who has been fighting with her. The threats (were) made in the presence of other people," Benipayo said.

Sworn statement

In a sworn statement, Jayme told investigators that her sister had received threats from another Comelec official.

"She received several threats and these came from Director Matibag, who is also from the Comelec," Jayme said when asked why Cinco was killed.

But an indignant Maria Angelina Matibag vehemently denied any hand in the killing, saying she had nothing personal against Cinco, who replaced her as EID chief after Benipayo took over.

Matibag was dismissed from the Comelec last week for abandonment of duty after she refused to report for work at the Comelec legal department, where she had been reassigned.

The lawyer was also barred from entering the Comelec premises, with Benipayo calling her presence "very dangerous."

Matibag is identified with the faction of Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, who is at odds with Benipayo.

Matibag said that she, too, had been receiving threats for months now and that she could have been the target of the killers. She declined to elaborate, however.

"I'm really sorry for her, but there's nothing I can do about these things," Matibag told reporters in a phone interview.

"She let herself be used (by people). She's not the root of all this," she said, adding she and Cinco "did not have any problems" and could work together.

But only two weeks ago, Matibag and Cinco reportedly clashed after Cinco ordered closed an EID room that Matibag and her staff used.

Tancangco merely shrugged off similar accusations, saying she was "used to being blamed for anything bad that happens" in the Comelec.

She said she would not be surprised if Benipayo's camp blamed her for Cinco's death this time, and added that she was willing to cooperate with investigators in the case.

"It only shows how desperate they can be," Tancangco said at her own press briefing.

Mild, gentle

Cinco has been described as a "mild and gentle woman" and an "amiable person" who could also be "naive at times."

Her sister told investigators that the gunman was wearing sunglasses and had half his face covered with a towel. She described the suspect as medium-built, fair, and wearing a striped shirt.

Bataller said the incident happened at around 8 a.m. while the victim and Jayme were on their way to work. Cinco sat on the front passenger seat while her son was in the driver's seat. Jayme sat at the victim's back, Bataller said.

Jayme said they left their house at around 7:40 a.m. When they reached the corner of Eden and Pedro Gil, Jayme heard several gunshots ring out.

"Tita May! Tita May! Mommy was shot in the head!" Jayme quoted Carlo as saying.

She said she then slumped behind Cinco's seat for cover. When she took a peek later, she saw the gunman in the motorcycle with another man.

The assailants then escaped quickly in the early morning traffic.

Cinco was brought to the Manila Doctors Hospital, but she died even before reaching it, Bataller said.

Bataller said investigators were still looking for witnesses but added that many of those living near the crime scene were reluctant to speak.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco ordered his men to investigate the case after Benipayo sought the NBI's help.

Wycoco said the Comelec infighting was also one of the angles the NBI was looking at in investigating Cinco's killing.

Violent tendencies

Two Special Action Forces men were detailed at the EID, to ensure that there would be no untoward incidents.

According to a Comelec source who refused to be identified, Matibag carried a gun inside the office and has a reputation for issuing threats.

"Yes, I had guns from the very beginning," Matibag admitted yesterday. "I need to protect myself, and I will not back out, but I have never fired them."

The head of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption decried the killing, saying this was an indication that hired killers were stalking the metropolis.

"The ambush is an indication that hired killers are on the loose in Manila. We condemn this killing and I appeal to our security officials to monitor these groups," VACC's Dante Jimenez said yesterday.

In the Senate, Sen. Panfilo Lacson blasted the administration's inability to curb the rising criminality. The government is losing the war against crime, he said. That is why it was encouraging civilians to arm themselves for protection.

"This administration is showing signs of panic," the former national police chief said. "They are jumping from one flimsy solution to another without studying facts." ***With a report from Cynthia Balana***

A low profile, a sweet smile

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

VELMA Cinco may not have been a major player in the intramurals at the Commission on Elections, but it was actually her appointment as chief of the EID on April 11, replacing lawyer Angelina Matibag, which set off a protracted word war between Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco.

Matibag's relief polarized an already fractious Comelec into two bickering factions, one supportive of Benipayo and another opposing his every move. The opposition commissioners, led by Tancangco, found in Matibag a steady ally to hit the Benipayo faction from below.

In all these, the soft-spoken Cinco kept a low profile as the new EID chief despite Matibag's continued defiance of Benipayo's order. Matibag had even named Cinco as a co-respondent in the administrative complaint she filed against Benipayo.

Cinco continued to work behind the closed doors of her small office in one corner of the EID, the same office she occupied when she was Matibag's deputy. For a long time, Matibag did not leave the EID director's desk at the opposite corner, issuing orders from time to time to some loyal staff.

As the May 14 elections neared, Cinco became more visible and took on a more active role. She became a fixture in Benipayo's press conferences.

Sweet talk

Today, reporters remember her fondly. She did not confront reporters who wrote negative stories about Benipayo or the Comelec, but neither did she sweet talk those who heaped praises on her boss. She would merely flash a sweet smile.

A journalism graduate, Cinco was media-shy and never liked to be involved in controversies. A check with the INQUIRER story archives shows that she was quoted in a total of only three stories this year.

When the INQUIRER once quoted her regarding Benipayo's trip to Sweden last June, Cinco teased the reporter that she might be reprimanded for the quote—even if she had not been identified in the report.

What was her quote? "We'll just wait for Benipayo to come home, so there will be no question who is head of the Comelec." Definitely not a statement to cost anyone her job.

But she was a good source of documents, but only upon a reporter's promise not to tell others that they came from her.

Reporters at the Comelec remember that Cinco liked to share bits of her life, particularly her children, with reporters who dropped by her office. She spoke proudly of a son who worked as a creative director for an advertising agency. in Makati City.

She said she didn't even know her cellular phone number, saying it was one of her children who encoded the number on her phone's address book.

GMA reaps bonanza for all-out support of US-led war vs terror

(From page A1)

support in the war on terror by easing Manila's massive debt burden.

James Kelly, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific affairs, indicated Washington would consider helping the Philippines reschedule its more than $50 billion in debt in a videoconference with Manila-based journalists.

The Philippines has reportedly looked longingly at the debt relief offered to Pakistan after it signed up for the US campaign. Washington approved a $600-million package for Islamabad, and later agreed to reschedule $375.4 million of its debt.

Bail out RP firms

A private equity fund represented by former US Vice President Dan Quayle has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Finance to put up a $500-million fund to help rehabilitate distressed Filipino companies.

Cerberus, the private investment fund, also signed an MOU with the Philippine government to acquire P10 billion in receivables from Pag-Ibig, National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. (NHMF) and Home Insurance Guarantee Corp. (HIGC).

Ms Macapagal witnessed the signing of the MOUs during a dinner with Quayle here at the Anderson House on Monday.

Earlier in the day, the President witnessed the signing of several MOUs and Memorandum of Agreements for about $500 million worth of loans and grants from the World Bank, US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Bureau of Treasury.

The funds will be used to provide micro-financing to former Moro rebels in Mindanao, to finance water systems in fourth to sixth class towns, to guarantee the importation of agricultural equipment and to support reforms in the power sector.

Surprise

In addition, Ms Macapagal received a "surprise" offer from US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill when he paid a courtesy call on the President.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the Bureau of Treasury had put the Philippines on the list of countries that could avail themselves of a debt-for-nature-swap scheme.

Under the scheme, the Philippines could use money earmarked for the repayment of a particular debt to finance an environmental project.

Camacho said the Philippine Business Recovery Fund to be put up by Cerberus would be used to rehabilitate distressed companies like, Camacho cited, the heavily indebted Victorias Milling Corp.

Camacho said Cerberus could use its money and those of other investors to buy the debts of the company and use them as equity.

Cerberus can even provide a managerial team to rehabilitate the company. The private equity fund has a panel of former chief executive officers, according to the finance secretary.

On the housing front, Camacho said Cerberus is interested in buying the collectibles of Pag-Ibig, NHMF and HIGC.

He did not say the amount that Cerberus wants to acquire but a Malacañang official said it could be $200 million or about P10 billion.

Aid to Mindanao

Another USAID program is economic assistance to Mindanao.

In the memorandum of intent signed between Camacho and USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios, the US will provide $55 million over a period of several years to help the economy and peace process in Mindanao.

Included among the beneficiaries are former Moro rebels. The funds will be channeled to cooperatives that will be set up.

Mindanao will also get financing for water systems. In the MOU signed between the World Bank and the Department of Finance, $30 million will fund safe and sustainable water sources for poor towns and cities nationwide.

The total program costs $283 million and will benefit 6 million Filipinos, according to Remedios Macalingcag, president of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP).

The DBP is the conduit of the WB loan.

In the energy sector, the Philippines will get $8.5 million from the USAID. The money will be used to promote fair and open competition, including the effective and transparent implementation of the Electricity Power Industry Reform Law.

USAID is also providing technical support for the implementation of the anti-money laundering law in the Philippines.

"USAID will support efforts in establishing an effective structure for monitoring suspicious transactions, enforcement of laws and regulations on money laundering and prosecution of money launderers," the memorandum of intent stated.

RP mangoes

In agriculture, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and his US counterpart Ann Veneman agreed to pursue scientific, technological and agribusiness cooperation.

The Philippines is also seeking wider access for Philippine mangoes in the US market.

Only mangoes from Guimaras, Iloilo are currently allowed entry to the US, according to Montemayor.

He said the Philippines wanted mangoes from other provinces to penetrate the US market.

Montemayor disclosed that the country was also seeking a $40-million commodity loan for 2002.He said the country could even get another $40 million in commodity grants.

Montemayor said the country had already obtained $100 million under the US GSM 102 Export Credit Guarantee Program and $50 million in Facilities Guarantee Program.

Georgetown speech

"We are determined to go every step of the way . . . I am here in Washington to affirm our solidarity," Ms Macapagal said in a speech to the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, from which she graduated in 1968 in a class which also boasted future US President Bill Clinton.

"It is our belief that evil should not be allowed to rule even one inch of the earth," said Ms Macapagal, after being presented with the Georgetown University President's medal.

The President offered airspace and, subject to the approval of the Philippine Congress, combat troops if requested for the US effort, which is currently focusing on an assault on Afghanistan's Taliban, which harbors terror suspect Osama bin Laden.

Making her first visit to the United States since becoming president in January, Ms Macapagal also pledged that the Philippines would win its battle with the Abu Sayyaf radical Islamic group, currently holding two American hostages.

"We will continue this pursuit until this group has been brought to justice," she said and promised swift justice to those guilty of "subhuman behavior."

"In the face of recession, investors have been quick to yank out funds from emerging markets thousands of miles removed from Ground Zero," she said.

She visited "Ground Zero" as the ruins of New York's World Trade Center are known, before travelling to Washington.

Help to fight Abu

When she meets Bush, she's expected to ask for military aid to help battle the Abu Sayyaf, which is reportedly funded from Bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

Military officials have been pushing for US military equipment, including combat helicopters, to help them fight the Abu Sayyaf, which is fighting to establish an Islamic state in Mindanao.

US military aid to Manila has declined since the Senate voted to end the US access to two major military bases in the Philippines in 1991, though the two sides continue to hold annual joint military exercises.

President Macapagal's talks with Bush are also likely to touch on the fate of two Americans held by the Abu Sayyaf.

Christian missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham of Kansas were captured in May, along with another American, Peru-born Guillermo Sobero and 17 Filipinos. Sobero was beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf in June. ***With a report from AFP***

Nur stripped of powers but vows to press fight

(From page A1)

rebels into attacking several military and police camps in Jolo.

"The Moro National Liberation Front is now free from the bandit government and we will return to our original struggle," Jamasali declared.

But Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces spokesperson, said Misuari was in no position to invalidate the peace agreement.

Adan pointed out that Misuari was ousted early this year as MNLF chair and replaced by a 15-man council led by Parouk Hussin.

With the MNLF divided into two factions, it was not clear how many in the MNLF would heed Misuari's call for a resumption of its armed struggle.

About 5,000 former MNLF fighters were integrated into the military and police after the peace deal ended 30 years of fighting. Many MNLF members also appeared to support political integration.

The MNLF has claimed it has 20,000 fighters, although estimates by military analysts are far lower.

Even so, President Macapagal's adviser on military affairs and the peace process predicted Misuari's rebellion would be crushed in about one month's time.

"We are confident that this would be quelled. They cannot sustain it for even a month because we don't think they have enough logistics to sustain such a long fight," Ermita said.

He pointed out that the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Conference, which helped broker the 1996 peace accord, no longer recognized Misuari as the MNLF leader.

Ermita said the government would soon brief the OIC on developments in Mindanao and ask the group not to grant asylum to Misuari.

At least one OIC member, Malaysia, on Tuesday urged Misuari to lay down his arms, saying an armed conflict would not serve the interest of Filipino Muslims.

Where's Misuari?

Ermita urged Misuari to come out of hiding and clear his name.

"The military and police already have instructions to locate him and prevent him from leaving the country," he said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said "documentary evidence" was being compiled against Misuari, who could be charged with rebellion and jailed for 20 years if proven he plotted and led Monday's uprising.

Jamasali said Misuari was in "an unidentified location" in Jolo.

But a source, who declined to be identified, said Misuari gave final instructions to his commanders in the coastal town of Parang a few days before the uprising.

He then left for Sabah in North Borneo with several of his top aides, according to the MNLF source.

Adan said the military had information that Misuari was still on the island where government troops were focusing their hunt for the rebel leader.

"Nur Misuari is now the subject of a manhunt by military authorities because of what his men did," Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, told reporters in Cotabato City.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, head of the AFP Southern Command, said the first of at least three Marine and Army battalions, had arrived in Zamboanga City, ready for dispatch to nearby Jolo.

Jolo quiet

Jolo was largely quiet on Tuesday, even as the airport was still off-limits to civilian traffic.

Telecommunications and ferry services to the island also remained suspended.

Villanueva said the island's urban centers had been secured after Misuari's forces took to the hills.

Cimatu, however, said Misuari's forces continued their "harassment at the Marine headquarters" near Parang.

Snipers hiding in a residential area were also taking potshots at the headquarters of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade in Jolo, although there had been no additional reports of casualties.

Fighting raged across the island for 21 hours on Monday as the military repulsed coordinated attacks by about 600 of Misuari's armed followers in Parang, Indanan, Talipao and Jolo.

Adan said the rebels killed four soldiers and seven civilians in the mortar attacks. Fifty-one rebels, however, killed in the counterattack, he said.

Another 80 people were injured, including 43 civilians who were hospitalized with shrapnel wounds, he said.

Contrary to earlier reports, the military said only two MNLF integrees switched sides during the fighting. "The rest remained loyal to the government," Adan said.

Ultimatum

President Macapagal, who is on a working visit to the United States, on Tuesday gave Misuari two days to stand down and explain his role in an armed revolt or face military action.

She also suspended Misuari as ARMM "while his direct responsibility for the raid is still being investigated," a Palace statement said.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Misuari was suspended on the basis of command responsibility.

"Now, as to the direct responsibility, that will have to be verified," Golez said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who is with the President in Washington, said the military had been instructed "to go hard against the perpetrators of this activity. This constitutes a serious affront on the authority of the government."

Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo said the ARMM balloting should go ahead as scheduled next week unless violence escalated.

Misuari, who is not seeking reelection, has said the elections violated the peace accord as he was not consulted about the process. ***Reports by Alexander M. Young, Edwin O. Fernandez, Julie Alipala-Inot, Grace Cantal-Albasin, and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Martin P. Marfil and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila; AP, AFP and Reuters***

Bridal business surges in US

(From page A1)

billion US bridal industry, which traditionally does most of its business from January through March as couples prepare for summer weddings.

"This is usually a quiet period, the least busiest time," said Ingrid Kelly, director of special events for David's Bridal, which operates 144 stores nationwide.

"But we are seeing a tremendous increase in bridal registries," she said.

Kelly said that some customers are moving up to next year their wedding dates that were originally scheduled in 2004 and 2003.

Soldiers also getting hitched

The bridal business is also getting a boost from those in the military who want to get married before being sent overseas, said David Kaufman, owner of Wedding World Inc., a 19-store bridal chain based in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

"The Sept. 11 event is giving the business more momentum," he said.

Wedding World so far has posted a 22-percent gain in sales in November.

Retailers from David's Bridal to Ashford.com and Bluenile.com are reporting a jump in sales of wedding merchandise including gowns and rings. The number of people setting up bridal registries is also up.

The rise in bridal business surprised David Liu, chief executive of The Knot.com, a leading wedding resource.

The Knot.com compared its online traffic during the first week of September with traffic during the first week of October, expecting a negative impact.

Instead, the company found a 10-percent increase in bridal registries. The site also had a 17-percent gain in traffic to its marriage license finder, and has gained advertising from tuxedo retailers and photographers.

More eager to form a family

"Bridal is one of the very few businesses that is doing well and totally defies economic recession and terrorism concerns," said Kurt Barnard, president of Barnard's Retail Trend Report in Upper Montclair, New Jersey.

"In fact, the greater the uncertainties of the time, the greater apparently the eagerness to get married and form a family," Barnard said.

Millie Martini Bratten, editor in chief of Bride's magazine, agreed but said it was not known if the uncertain times have made couples choose more intimate weddings or bigger affairs.

But a bigger affair is what Patty Walsh of Waterbury, Connecticut wants.

Walsh is spending $6,000 more on her wedding that had an initial budget of $14,000.

"What's money at this point? I wanted my wedding to be the best it could possibly be," she said.

'The attacks shook me up'

One couple who felt an immediate need to tie the knot immediately was Darcy Rowan and Antal Voros.

They had talked about marriage during their five-month courtship, but it took on a sudden urgency after they watched the Sept. 11 attacks unfold on television.

Voros headed to a mall to shop for a ring that week and presented Rowan with the diamond one month later.

"The terrorist attacks shook me up. I was really worried about her," said Voros, 42, who lives in Elmer, New Jersey, two hours away from Rowan, a New Yorker.

"This made me think, maybe I shouldn't wait as long," he said.

And Rowan, 34, accepted his proposal.

She said: "I heard all those stories about people losing their loved ones. It made him more important." *AP*

Ad congress hopes . . .

(From page A1)

ket and address it directly. The response will be increased sales of goods and services. Thus, consumers will spend more and get the stalled economy going.

This is the whole point of the advertising congress that will draw 2,000 members of the industry. Tasked with generating sales for their client-firms, the advertising industry hopes to draw attention to specific consumer markets.

That is why the theme of the biennial congress is: Target: Market. This is to mean that the days of the shotgun approach or mass marketing are over.

Pedro Dy-Liacco, chair of the 17th PACongress, states that the advertising industry plays a vital role in the economy. "If you spur consumers to spend more, the economy will be benefited."

Thus when the consumers buy more, companies have to produce more, generating employment and putting money in circulation.

The advertising industry is one of the most affected sectors during an economic crunch. With the tough times, advertising budgets are the first to be slashed. Studies show, however, that a slowdown in marketing activities also leads to lower sales.

The congress adopts an optimistic note that despite the slowdown in the economy there remains a vast market opportunities.

Among the markets that will be discussed are children, the graying market, the family members of overseas Filipino workers, and the Internet surfers.

The organizers say that despite the economic slowdown, the congress is expected to be well attended based on those who had pre-registered. ***(Please turn to page E-1 for further details of the congress).***

Strunk now a suspect; DOJ starts investigation

(From page A1)

by the Philippine National Police with the Department of Justice against Medel and the parricide charges against Strunk and John and Jane Does.

The DOJ, through State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, yesterday issued a subpoena ordering Strunk to present himself at the DOJ at 9:30 a.m. on Friday.

But no one at the family residence in White Plains, Quezon City, was willing to receive the subpoena that two DOJ personnel tried to serve about 10 a.m.

Velasco quoted Strunk as saying that he could not accept the subpoena in the absence of his lawyers.

Perez said the DOJ personnel left the document with household helpers and "some barangay officials."

"The point is it's all over television. He knows that he is being subpoenaed. And we believe that he will appear if he is not hiding anything," Perez said.

Torres left the White Plains house around 8 a.m. to meet with PNP officials in Camp Crame.

She was accompanied by her lawyer and family friend Harriet Demetriou and Elena de la Paz, Blanca's longtime girl Friday.

Neither Torres nor Demetriou, former chair of the Commission on Elections, took questions from the media as they emerged from the meeting held at the office of Deputy Director Rex Piad, chief of the PNP directorial staff.

The meeting lasted for more than three hours. But Director Nestorio Gualberto, head of Task Force Marsha and chief of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said "we never talked about" Medel's surrender and allegation that it was Strunk who masterminded Blanca's murder.

Both Gualberto and Director Thompson Lantion, deputy director for police community relations, said Torres expressed gratitude to the PNP for its efforts in solving her mother's killing.

They said Torres also offered to cooperate in the investigation and quoted her as saying: "This is justice for my mom."

Torres flew from her base in Los Angeles for her mother's funeral last week, and has remained here since. The PNP has provided her a total of four security personnel.

Medel

Perez said even Medel was a subject of the preliminary investigation.

"But I cannot make any announcement as to the outcome of the investigation because it will depend on the evidence to be presented to us," Perez said.

KAYE TORRES leaves her house in White Plains on Tuesday to go to Camp Crame. JOAN BONDOC

Medel, 54, turned himself in to Task Force Marsha on Sunday, saying his conscience had been bothering him.

He said that he had been contracted by Strunk through a certain Mike Martinez to torture Blanca into producing a document, and that he stabbed her on Strunk's say-so when she refused.

Police said Medel once worked as a mercenary in Angola and as a military asset. An ID card found in his rented apartment showed that he worked as "security consultant" for Jude Estrada, a son of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Perez could not say if Medel could qualify as a state witness.

"There are also questions as to whether Medel will be placed under the Witness Protection Program, or will be discharged and used as state witness," Perez said. "We cannot make any comment at this moment because we have not yet evaluated the evidence against Mr. Strunk."

Perez said his office had decided against immediately filing murder charges against Medel and Martinez.

He said the murder complaint filed by the PNP on Monday with the DOJ would still be verified. "We're not doubting the role of the PNP, but we will first see if the case will stand in court," he stressed.

So far, the PNP has submitted Medel's 10-page affidavit as evidence against Strunk, Perez said.

As for corroborating evidence, Perez said state prosecutors would check whether the physical evidence gathered from the crime scene—the sixth-floor car park of the Atlanta Center in San Juan—would jibe with witnesses' testimony.

Perez said he had asked the PNP-CIDG to subject Medel to a polygraph examination and psychological evaluation.

"Again, we are not doubting his sanity or whatever. But we want that if we file cases in court, they should be airtight . . . no fall guys," Perez said.

25-percent complete

Gualberto said he told Torres that the case was not considered closed even if Medel had confessed to killing her mother and tagged Strunk as the mastermind.

"Considering the bulk of the work that we have to do, we could consider this investigation as only 25-percent complete," he said he told Torres.

National Bureau of Investigation Reynaldo Wycoco said NBI agents were hunting down three more suspects in the Blanca murder—Martinez and the two unidentified women supposedly also present at the time of the crime.

He also warned the relatives of Blanca and of Medel that they would face criminal charges if they did not cooperate with the investigation.

Wycoco said that at present, the evidence held by the NBI supported Medel's sworn statement. He said the only black mark in Medel's NBI record was a complaint for qualified trespassing in Cebu in February 1988.

Earlier, Wycoco told the INQUIRER that the blood in the shirt Medel had surrendered matched that of Blanca.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, spokesperson of Task Force Marsha, also said Medel's statement "corroborates forensic evidence."

Espina told reporters that Medel spoke in a spontaneous manner during interrogation: "He answered all the questions that we had, which puzzled us before, with utmost spontaneity. He answered questions in an ordinary way."

Furthermore, Espina pointed out, the paring knife recovered from Medel matched the depth of Blanca's wounds.

"The diameter and every dimension fits," Espina said. "He is credible."

Members of Medel's family have refused to believe his involvement in the crime. A sister-in-law earlier said he was just paid to make the confession.

But Espina dismissed this, saying: "I don't think any Filipino would want to get paid and be subjected to lethal injection. I don't think anybody in his right mind would do that."

Gualberto said that if there were "inconsistencies" in Medel's affidavit, it was because he wrote it without being coached by investigators. ***With a report from Philip C. Tubeza***

Medel's kids become butts of cruel jokes

CEBU CITY—The confession of Philip Medel Jr. that he killed Nida Blanca has taken its toll on his six children, according to his wife Sobrenia ("Arby").

"My son was very angry when he came home from school," Arby said between sobs in a radio interview yesterday. She said the boy, a high school student, was furious over his classmates' jokes and snide remarks about his father.

"He said he would not go back to school again," she said.

Arby said she was planning to return to Metro Manila with her children: "I want to leave my hometown because I and my children are so ashamed."

Four of the six children, with ages ranging from 15 to 8 years, live with Arby in Asturias. Two daughters, who are in their early 20s, live with Medel in Manila.

Arby said she did not know what her husband's job was in Manila. She said it was her daughters who regularly sent her money.

She said her last lengthy conversation with Medel was on the phone on Nov. 9, two days after Blanca was found dead. But there was no indication that he was distressed or saddled with a problem.

He called because it was the birthday of one of their children, she said, adding that she never knew of his supposed involvement in Blanca's death until he was presented on television Monday.

Last Sunday, she said, she received a text message from Medel saying, "I love you, please take care of the children."

Medel's younger brother Vic, who lives with his family in Cebu City, said Medel's confession "has brought shame to the family, especially to my daughter."

"On my part, and other people who can understand life, I have a certain degree of acceptance. What can we do? You cannot choose your relatives," Vic said. ***Jhunnex Napallacan and Kathy I. Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Jalosjos likens fate to Nida's

(From page A1)

the slain actress Nida Blanca, with whom he once lived with for three years. "It's impossible to see her killed like that, and me, jailed," he said.

At the House, Isabela Rep. Antonio Abaya said the committee on ethics could not start expulsion proceedings on Jalosjos until the affirmation of his rape conviction became final.

Abaya, who chairs the committee, pointed out that under the law Jalosjos could still appeal the Supreme Court ruling on Monday affirming Makati Judge Roberto Diokno's decision to convict the congressman of raping an 11-year-old girl in 1996.

"Let's allow Jalosjos to seek the remedies available to him before we act," Abaya said, adding that time constraints prevented his committee from taking up Jalosjos' case yesterday.

He said the committee might take it up at the next meeting scheduled two weeks from now, but he noted that it could only take action until after the tribunal had issued a final decision.

However, Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza said Jalosjos' expulsion from the chamber was "long overdue."

"Jalosjos must be booted out of the House. We cannot make a mockery of this Congress because of his continuing presence," Maza said in a statement.

She urged her colleagues to move "unanimously" for Jalosjos' expulsion "if we want full justice to be achieved for the victim."

She added that Congress must also pass measures that would bar people accused of grave and heinous crimes from seeking election.

Jalosjos is serving his third and last term as congressman in jail. When he was convicted and sentenced in 1997, it was the first time an incumbent congressman was meted out two life terms.

'Very nice lady'

Jalosjos said he could not make sense of why Blanca "suffered such a cruel fate."

"She was a very nice lady and wife," he said. "It would be foolish for any man to leave her. For some time after we broke up, I made her a standard for my future soul mates."

But he said he still felt "blessed, knowing that she was killed and I'm alive."

"Her death serves as a cushion for the pain that I feel right now . . . Even in death, she served me," he said, adding that he hoped for justice for Blanca.

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BONDS: Winning is everything. AP

NL'S BEST

Barry Bonds becomes first 4-time MVP

NEW YORK—Barry Bonds is looking for affection, not money or trophies. He's likely to wind up with all three.

"I just want to be wanted," he said Monday after becoming the first player to win four Most Valuable Player Awards.

Bonds won the National League MVP in a landslide to cap a record-breaking season in which his 73 home runs broke baseball's biggest season record. He received 30 of 32 first-place ballots and 438 points in voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"Once you've won it a few times, the standards for you are very high," Bonds said. "It's very difficult to achieve it again."

The 37-year-old outfielder hit .328 with 137 runs batted in for the San Francisco Giants. Chicago Cubs outfielder Sammy Sosa got the other two first-place votes and finished second with 278 points.

On Tuesday, Bonds can start translating his statistics into cash. That's the first day free agents can negotiate salaries with all teams.

"The most important thing for me is winning," Bonds said. "I really want to have an opportunity to win. I've played a long time."

His new agent, Scott Boras, quickly modified his client's remarks.

"Is this about money? Of course it is. This is a business," Boras said.

Bonds is coming off a $30.7 million, three-year contract and Boras is seeking a contract of up to five years. Since the end of the season, Boras and the Giants have talked just once, a session last Friday dealing with generalities.

While Giants' teammates have been cool to Bonds, he feels appreciated by the Bay area fans. He has bristled at his image–a detached and sometimes selfish star.

"I learned that there's a lot of people here in San Francisco that do like me," Bonds said. "Sure, my preference is to stay. My preference is to play baseball, but I have to do what is best for me, and I know the organization has to do what's best for them."

Bonds also won the MVP award for Pittsburgh in 1990 and 1992 and for the Giants in 1993. He finished second to Atlanta's Terry Pendleton in 1991 and to San Francisco's Jeff Kent last year.

"I don't have a home big enough to put trophies in my house," said Bonds, who has earned in excess of $75 million in nine seasons with the Giants.

Boras, using Bonds' average of 47 homers in the last five seasons, projects his client will have 802 homers by the end of the 2006, 47 more than Hank Aaron's career record. *AP*

Archers too much for Jewels in PBL

Shark snaps 2-game losing skid

By Dennis Eroa

SURPRISING International Container Terminal Services Inc.-Archers dumped Montaña Jewels, 85-67, to share early leadership with bemedalled Welcoat Paints in the PBL Challenge Cup last night at the Makati Coliseum.

Hitting their targets all night long, the Green Archers also forced the Jewels to grope for form with a sticky defense en route to their third straight win. ICTSI's earlier victims were Kutitap Toothpaste and Ana Freezers, respectively.

With the Jewels unable to play decent defense, the Archers posted several double-digit figures, the biggest at 72-57, six minutes remaining in the fourth period. James Yap, Willy Wilson, Rommel Daep and Ronald Cuan all finished in double figures for ICTSI.

Earlier, defending champion Shark Energy Drink exploited Ateneo-Pioneer's fumbling finish to stop a two-game losing skid with a 64-59 victory and even its record to 2-2.

Unable to keep its composure under grinding pressure, Ateneo-Pioneer sank to the cellar with three straight losses.

Only Leo Avenido was able to score in the fourth period which illustrated the Insurers' faltering show. Avenido gave the Insurers the lead for the last time, 59-56, before a maze of errors and missed shots in the dying minutes did Ateneo-Pioneer in.

"I'm glad the team was able to beat pressure," said Shark mentor Leo Austria. Austria and his coaching staff wore blue wristbands, while their wards played with headbands to remind them of their promise to win the game.

Ateneo posted a huge 47-32 advantage in rebounds, but just like in their past games, big men Enrico Villanueva, Rich Alvarez, Miggy Noble and Billy Mamaril were unable to deliver the goods during the crucial stretches of the match.

Scores:

SHARK 64—Tolomia 13, Junio 10, Ybañez 8, Robinson 8, Sotto 7, Castro 6, Rodriguez 4, Malabanan 4, Basilides 2, Cole 2, Limare 0, Ortega 0.

ATENEO 59—Avenido 17, Noble 12, Ferrer 8, Mamaril 6, Villanueva 5, Bugia 4, Membrere 4, Alvarez 3, Sison 0, De la Rosa 0, Cruz 0.

Quarters:13-16, 39-32, 48-51, 64-59.

ROMY HOMILLADA

LEO Avenido (right) of Ateneo-Pioneer eyes the ball as he tries to slip past Shark's Warren Ybañez in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum last night. Shark won, 64-59.

Kings, Nuggets prevail

SACRAMENTO, California —Peja Stojakovic scored 25 points, and Doug Christie had 23 points and seven assists Monday as the Sacramento Kings remained unbeaten at home with a 113-77 victory over the Houston Rockets.

One night after a loss to the Lakers at Los Angeles' Staples Center, Sacramento got its fifth convincing win of the season at Arco Arena.

Scot Pollard had 12 points and 14 rebounds while starting his 11th game for Chris Webber, whose sprained ankle could keep him out at least two more weeks.

Nuggets 99, Nets 96, OT

In Denver, Nick Van Exel scored 30 points, including two free throws and a 3-pointer in overtime as Denver beat New Jersey.

Van Exel, who was 12-for-30 from the field, had missed a 3-pointer that would have won the game at the end of regulation. Raef LaFrentz added 25 points as the Nuggets won for the fifth time in six games. *AP*

Tiger eyes 4th straight 'Slam' title

POIPU BEACH, Hawaii—David Duval has one word to describe his three opponents in this week's PGA Grand Slam of Golf–champions.

WOODS

DUVAL

"I think that's the highest compliment you can give," said Duval, the British Open champion.

Duval faces Masters champion Tiger Woods, US Open champion Retief Goosen and PGA champion David Toms in the $1 million 36-hole stroke-play event that starts Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

"It's the hardest tournament to qualify for," said Woods, who is seeking his fourth consecutive Grand Slam title. "You take great pride in being here, obviously you're one of the best players to have won a major championship and be in this position."

Woods, Duval and Goosen are a little travel weary, coming off this past weekend's World Cup in Japan that was won by Goosen and South African teammate Ernie Els.

"I'm a little more tired than I normally am, but I've come to this tournament in worse condition," Woods said.

Last year, Woods arrived at the 6,428-meter (7,064-yard) Poipu Bay Golf Course two hours before his tee time from Thailand. But he still managed to pull out a win against Vijay Singh by eagling the par-5 18th in regulation and the first hole of a playoff.

But this time, Woods had a little more time to enjoy Hawaii before the tournament got under way.

"I laid around and did nothing and just kinda hung out," Woods said. "I tried to even out my farmer tan but other than that, I didn't do much of anything."

Woods, the youngest participant in this year's field at 25, is making his fifth entry into the tournament, joining Greg Norman as the only two players to earn five Grand Slam invitations.

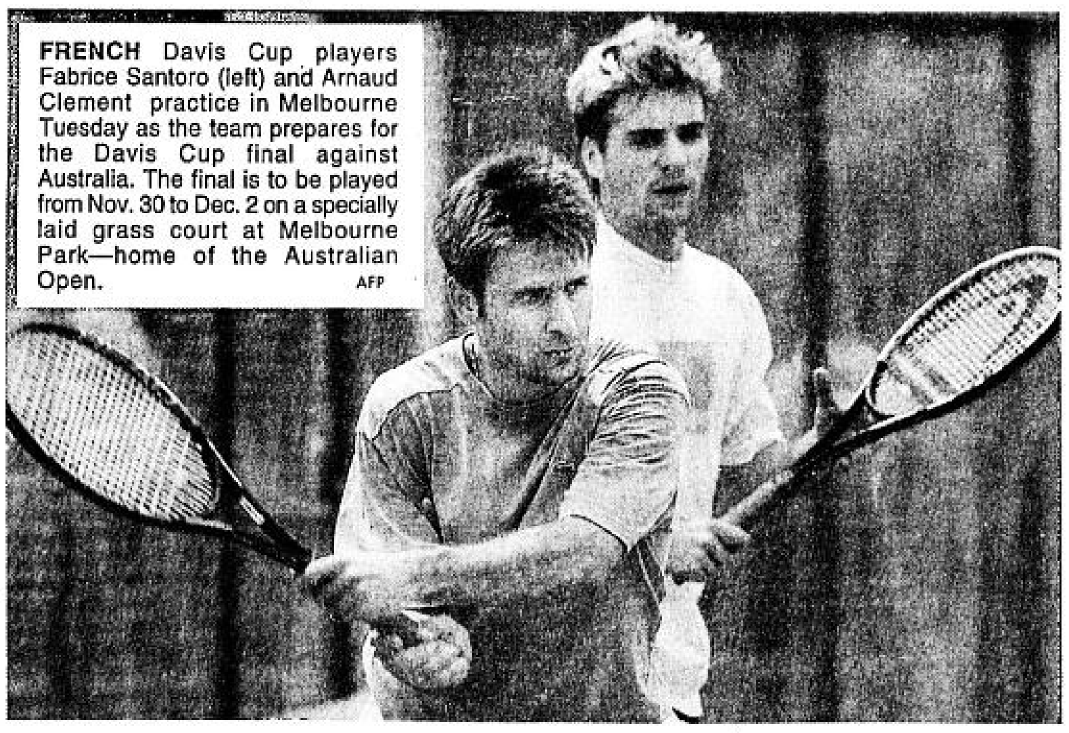
Duval, Goosen and Toms are first-time major champions.

"I think this event helps you to realize what you have accomplished because you are sitting among the four big winners of the year," Duval said. "At the same time, I'm coming in here off a whirlwind trip and I'm a little beat up and tired. But sitting up here makes you feel like you accomplished something."

The 2001 Masters was Woods' fourth consecutive victory in a major. He has earned $5,687,777 to top the money list for the third straight year.

"To go out there the next couple days and compete against them is what it's all about," Woods said. "I'm looking forward to it, and I know they are." *AP*

Hewitt, Rafter head Aussie Cup team



FRENCH Davis Cup players Fabrice Santoro (left) and Arnaud Clement practice in Melbourne Tuesday as the team prepares for the Davis Cup final against Australia. The final is to be played from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 on a specially laid grass court at Melbourne Park—home of the Australian Open. AFP

MELBOURNE, Australia —New world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt and Patrick Rafter were named Tuesday to Australia's four-man team to contest the Nov. 30-Dec. 2 Davis Cup final against France at Melbourne Park.

Hewitt, who became No. 1 during his winning campaign last week at the Masters Cup, is expected to travel from Sydney to Melbourne this week.

Rafter, who struggled with an injured arm during three round-robin losses at the Masters Cup and finished the year at No. 7, is already in Melbourne getting medical treatment. Although Rafter remains confident of being fit for the final.

Wayne Arthurs and doubles specialist Todd Woodbridge were also included in the Australian squad in an unchanged lineup to that which beat Sweden in the semifinals.

The final will be played on grass courts at Melbourne Park.

"This is a well-balanced grasscourt team that fits well together and gives us a range of options," said Australia's non-playing captain, John Fitzgerald. "This is going to be a tough contest and we have to approach it as such."

World No. 6 Sebástien Grosjean, who lost the Masters Cup final to Hewitt on Sunday, is expected to spearhead the French lineup.

It is a third consecutive Davis Cup final for Hewitt. Australia beat France at Nice in 1999 and lost to Spain in last year's decider at Barcelona. *AP*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Adrian Zafra tallied 1121 points while Heile Palacios had 1029 to earn top honors in the NAAP-Fita indoor archery at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Also today in 1988, Eddie Bagtas fired a three-under-par 69 to post a four-stroke victory over Antolin Fernando in the Crispa 400 golf classic at the Capitol layout in Quezon City.

MAYOR'S CUP

Letran bets rule Makati table tennis tilt

LETRAN netters showed their might as the highly successful Makati First Mayor's Cup Table Tennis Championships ended with a bang last Sunday.

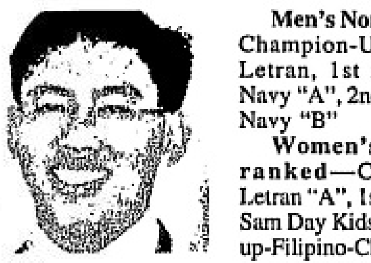
The three-day netfest, held at the Olympia Sports Complex in Barangay Olympia, was organized and conducted by the Philippine Table Tennis Development Union, Inc. headed by Councilor Jejomar "Jun Jun" S. Binay, Jr.

Letran flexed its muscles in the men's open, women's open and men's and women's non-ranked divisions to steal the show from the rest of the field.

Complete results:

Men's Open—Champion-Universidad Letran, 1st runner up-Navy "A", 2nd runner-up Navy "B"

Women's Open—Champion-Letran "A", 1st runner up-Sam Day Kids, 2nd runner up—Letran "C".



BINAY

Men's Non-ranked—Champion-Universidad Letran, 1st runner up-Navy "A", 2nd runner up-Navy "B"

Women's Non-ranked—Champion-Letran "A", 1st runner up-Sam Day Kids, 2nd runner up-Filipino-Chinese Amateur Athletic Federation

Boys—Champion-University of the East, 1st runner up-Letran "A", 2nd runner-up Letran "B"

Girls—Champion-Cainta Table Tennis Club, 1st runner-up Cavite City, 2nd runner-up Palanan Elementary Table Tennis Club

Aside from trophies and medals, all the winning teams received cash prizes, with the champions getting P8,000.

Councilor Binay said that the tourney, which drew huge crowds, enhanced the awareness of people about the sport also known as "ping-pong."

Lim to Hall of Fame

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

BECAUSE it is great project, the Basketball Hall of Fame induction ceremony is always alive. It can only be delayed, but not obliterated.

The other day, tireless Julian Malonso, 78-year-old sports critique and former Philippine Olympic Committee president, called to relay the good news that the third Hall of Fame ceremony would push through early next year if not late this year.

"It's all go," said Malonso, who diligently researched the credentials of each nominee of the first two awards rites in 1999 and 2000. "But since Joe zubiri, executive director of the Hall of Fame, is still in Australia everything is on hold. However, Joe's confidante, Ronald Ayad, assured us that the enshrinement ceremony for the third batch would be held very soon."

While Malonso didn't want to ignore so many great basketball players, he said his top choice for the third batch is no other than Eddie Lim. He tells us why: Now 71, publicity-shy Lim is truly gifted, in a class with Hall of Famers Carlos Loyzaga, Antonio Genato and Ramoncito Campos, who were all his teammates in several Olympic and Asian Games campaigns. In his heyday, Lim played as an outstanding guard whose solid defense earned him the monicker "Stonewall" from the late legendary sportscaster Willie Hernandez.

Cool and calculated, he initially made his mark as a player of many-time NCAA champion San Beda College in the 1950s. Coached by the fabled Fely Fajardo, Lim led the rip-roaring San Beda Red Lions to the NCAA championships in 1951-52 and the National Open crown in 1952.

In the Asian Games, Lim was a member of the Philippine team that won the gold medals in the 1954 Asiad in Manila under wily coach Herminio Silva and in 1958 in Tokyo under young but innovative Valentin "Tito" Eduque. Lim saw action in two Olympics: 1952 in Helsinki where the Philippine team, mentored by Fely Fajado, finished 11th and 1956 in Melbourne where the nationals, coached by the venerable Leo Prieto, landed a respectable seventh.

In the World Basketball Championship in 1959 in Chile, Lim was a member of the Philippine quintet, piloted by master bench tactician Baby Dalupan, that finished ninth. He was also a member of the powerhouse YCO Painters team owned by the Elizaldes that won the National Open titles a record seven consecutive years under Leo Prieto and Tito Eduque. Lim capped his colorful cage career by winning the inaugural ABC championship held in Manila in 1960. The champion team was coached by Arturo Rius. After quitting basketball, Lim became a successful businessman, making a name for himself in the stock market. He is truly a role model for all athletes to follow when their playing days are over.

Arm wrestling at Padi's Mindave

MALE and female sports buffs are invited to join the exciting Mindave Arm-Wrestling Challenge this Thursday (Nov. 22) at Padi's Mindave Restaurant Bar on Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.

The tournament is sponsored by America's popular Colt 45 beer which is giving away free T-shirts to all participants.

Padi's Mindave also recently opened air-conditioned off-track betting stations for horse racing fans.

Darts, chess, billiards, rock climbing and many other sports events are also slated in the near future.

For inquiries, call 453-0080, 411-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

Arm-wrestling is a popular sport in the US and Europe. It was the subject of the Hollywood film "Over the Top" which starred Sylvester Stallone.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA – Charlotte Hornets vs Washington Wizards at 9 a.m. (r – 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA 2001 Tip-Off Classic - Georgetown vs Georgia at midnight (r) on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Grand Slam of Golf 2001, Day One at 9 a.m. (r – 7:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA - Sports Today Open, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BILLIARDS: 2001 WPBA Classic Tour, Semifinal #1 at 6 a.m. (r), Semifinal #2 at 4 p.m. on ESPN

TENNIS: Seniors Open M1 Champions Tennis 2001, Semifinal #2 at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

SOCCER: Football Asia at 8:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

English Premier Football League - Chelsea vs Everton at 12 noon on Star Sports

World Cup Mix at 7 p.m. o on Star Sports

UEFA Champions League, Group Phase 2, Match Day 7 tomorrow at 3:30 a.m. and 6 a.m. on ESPN

KNOCKOUT GAME TODAY

Ginebra battles Shell for last semifinal seat

GAME TODAY (Philsports)
7p.m.—Ginebra vs Shell

BY JUNE NAVARRO

BARANGAY Ginebra and Shell collide today to determine who gets the last semifinal seat in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Thriving on their sleek running game, the Kings routed the Turbo Chargers, 97-75, last week to reduce their 7 p.m. encounter into a do-or-die affair.

Spitfire Mark Caguioa, Elmer Lago and Jayjay Helterbrand sparkled for the Kings, who are eyeing another milestone they twice did since the eight-team playoff format was introduced in 1999.

Seeded 8th in the All-Filipino Cup quarterfinals in 1999, the Kings stunned top qualifier Mobiline to advance into the semifinals before duplicating the feat again in the same conference this year as a fifth seed against Purefoods.

Although standing on a familiar situation as before, the Kings were luckier this time to be ranged against a Shell squad plagued by injuries.

Benjie Paras, Jun Marzan and playmaker Dale Singson, who injured his knee in the first half against the Kings, remain doubtful starters and are expected to watch the Turbo Chargers solve the Ginebra riddle at the sidelines.

"The team is unhealthy but it should not be an excuse. We'll just have to stop their (Kings) running game and hope their superstars won't explode," said Shell coach Perry Ronquillo, referring to Vergel Meneses, Jun Limpot, Bal David and Caguioa.

The Kings are eyeing to join San Miguel Beer, Sta. Lucia Realty and Pop Cola in the next round with the Beermen tipped to be their next opponents in a best-of-five series.

Meanwhile, Basketball Association of the Philippines president Quinteliano Literal yesterday gave the assurance that the PBA would have the blanket authority to form and train the national team for the next year's Asian Games once the memorandum of agreement is signed.

Literal said the MOA, to be forged by the PBA and the BAP, would be finalized within the week. PBA sources also confirmed provisions in the MOA were already agreed "in principle" by both parties.

MBA semis starts today

CAN FEDEX Laguna's magic extend up to the semifinal round?

Enjoying an eight-game winning run, including two victories over Andok's San Juan, FedEx Laguna will be the slight favorite when they begin their best-of-three series in the Northern Conference of the MBA Second Phase today at the San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The Lakers have been the victims of the Knights many times since the league started in 1998, but have asserted their superiority this conference.

The Lakers bested the Knights twice in the elimination round, 95-85, and 101-94, respectively.

Cebuana Lhuillier and TPG Davao start their own best-of-three semifinal series in the Southern Conference at 5:30 p.m. at the Cebu City Coliseum.

The Gems could only split their games with the Eagles this conference and should find the going rough again.

HELTERBRAND (left): Ginebra sparkplug. FILE PHOTO

Inter-schools golf meet gets under way

THIS YEAR'S Milo-PJGDA Inter-Schools Tournament, an annual gathering of the country's top junior players, will be played Nov. 21-23 at three golf courses.

The event, now on its 12th year, is sponsored by Milo and conducted by the Philippine Junior Golf Development Association in coordination with the Philippine Junior Golf Federation.

"I would like to thank Milo for again sponsoring this event and the Club Intramuros, Philippine Navy Golf and Canlubang Golf and Country Club for hosting it," said Edgardo "Boy" Cantada, who heads both the PGJDA and PJGF.

Schools that have confirmed their participation were International School of Manila, Ateneo de Manila University, La Salle Greenhills, La Salle Zobel, Xavier School, Colegio San Agustin, Brent School, Miriam College, St. Stephen High School, Notre Dame of Greater Manila, Ann Arbor Montessori, of Biñan and Morning Dew Montessori.

"As usual, competition will be in Grade School and High School for boys and girls. And they will battle for individual and team honors," Cantada said.

Baguio Fil-Am tilt attracts 21 squads

EVERYTHING is in place for the staging of the much-awaited Fil-Am Golf Team Championship scheduled Dec. 3 to 8 at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay courses in Baguio City.

Shean Bedi, the overall tournament coordinator, yesterday graced the PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn Hotel to inform mediamen of their readiness to host the event which has attracted a total of 67 teams composed of at least 10 players each.

There will be 21 teams coming in from other countries like the US and they are expected to arrive in the country's summer capital as early as Nov. 27. The field will be divided into seven categories, including the Fil and Am divisions.

"This is an event Baguio has always looked forward to, considering the fact that there will be a lot of visitors. Everything is in place. The courses are in great condition and the local government has given us their full cooperation, said Bedi.

The PAL system of scoring will be applied in the five-to-play, four-to-count tourney where a point is awarded for a bogey, two for par, three for birdie, four for eagle and five for an ace.

To ensure a smooth conduct of the tournament, the organizers have tapped the services of Information Professional Inc. to handle the scoring, according to Bedi, who is expecting another successful staging of the tournament first staged 51 years ago.

Competing players paid a P7,700 entry fee each, and this includes two practice rounds, four official rounds, four evening functions and wonderful giveaways worth P2,000 each.

Lhuillier grabs solo lead

GAMES TODAY:
Rizal Memorial Coliseum
2 p.m.—RP Young Men's vs Cebu Lhuillier
4 p.m.—Korea-Sangmu vs UE
6 p.m.—Spring Cooking Oil vs SSC

BY ROY LUARCA

CEBU Lhuillier showed Spring Cooking Oil why it is the defending champion in the National Open Invitational Basketball Championship yesterday.

Recovering from a 14-point deficit in the last five minutes of regulation, Cebu Lhuillier forced overtime and went on to beat Spring Cooking Oil, 97-93, and grab the solo lead in the six-team tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Jewelers notched their second straight win following their 99-70 dumping of University of the East during the inaugurals on Monday.

Spring Cooking Oil, on the other hand, tasted its first defeat after a stirring 109-102 conquest of Korea-Samsung during the tournament-opener.

Just when the Jewelers were losing hope, Mike Dumdum and Woodrew Enriquez found their mark to tow their team ahead at 81-79. Veteran import Bobby Parks, however, canned two freethrows with 20 seconds left to force overtime for Spring Cooking Oil.

The jubilation of national shooter Tac Padilla's wards turned out to be short-lived, however, as they were outhustled and outplayed by the multi-titled Jewelers in the extension period.

Dumdum and Al Reyes shared scoring honors for Cebu Lhuillier with 18 points each, while Parks topscored for Spring Cooking Oil with 31.

Sangmu, which is missing the services of its three national players, bounced back into contention with a 94-53 rout of NCAA champion San Sebastian College in the second game.

With a 1-win, 1-loss record, Sangmu, runner-up in the 24th William Jones Cup in Taipei, is tied for second place with Spring Cooking Oil and San Sebastian College, which had beaten the FedEx RP Young Men's team of Coach Johnny Tam, 86-76, on opening day.

Greenhills 1 beats Intervillage rivals

SAVING its best for last, Greenhills 1 turned in a remarkable 380 Stableford points yesterday to run away with the Alaxan 10th Grand Intervillage golf championship at the Wack Wack Golf and country Club. All players who scored for Greenhills 1 under the 12-to-play, 10-to-count format had 38 points. With its first-round 326, Greenhills 1 won with a 706 total in the event first staged in 1991 to develop camaraderie among golfers from different villages.

It was the first grand Intervillage crown for Greenhills 1, which drew identical scores from Sonny Go, Andy Co, Doming Hernandez, Pete Lavaro, Louie Borromeo, Honor Mendoza, Arthur Reyes, Pablo Soon, Benito Lim and Mulong Santos.

The tournament sponsored principally by Alaxan is also supported by BJ Marthel International, MasterCard, Pinoy-Auctions.com, ICTSI, STI Computer College, Callaway, Odyssey, Pisanti Golf wear, Haagen Dazs and 357 Boracay.

Magallanes emerged champion in the A division with a two-round total of 6859318-367) followed by Greenhills 2 at 682 (315-367), Philam Homes at 667 (297-370) and Merville Park at 648(294-354). The division is for teams that won their qualifying tournaments.

Super Cup semis begin

IT'S now down to four teams as the semifinals of the Third Globe Super Cup football tournaments kicks off today with defending champion Army facing Air Force and Kaya tackling Navy at the Philsports pitch in Pasig City.

The Army booters battle their archrivals at 5 p.m. while upset-conscious Kaya faces the Seamen at 7 p.m. with the winners advancing to the championship match on Saturday of the tournament sponsored by Globe Telecoms.

"We're expecting a lot of no-holds-barred football since a lot is at stake in tomorrow's semifinal games," said tournament director Philip Hagedorn. "So we encourage Metro Manila soccer fans to troop to the Philsports tomorrow and watch our remaining top four teams in action."

"Just to reach the semifinals has been a long and rigorous grind for our teams so to make it to this round is an honor in itself," said Santiago "Santi" Elizalde, president of the organizing National Capital Region Football Association.

The tournament started with 24 teams in the eliminations with the four top finishers in the preliminary grouping advancing to the next phase, a knockout system all the way to the finals.

NCA derby slated

BIGGER, better and more exciting than ever, the National Cockers Association will launch its yearlong NCA 7-Cock Derby on Dec. 10-12 at the Araneta Coliseum, featuring the very best fighting cocks of the country's famous cocker-breeders.

The season-opening derby will be hosted by the NCA, the pioneer and premier organization of prominent sportsmen-businessmen who are, by any measure, the Philippines' who's who in cockfighting.

To illustrate: The NCA Central Council is composed of Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, three-time Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, engineer Pacifico Berin, reigning champion Gerry Fevidal, popular lawyer and former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Pampanga's champion cocker Jun Jingco, Rep. Claude Bautista, Louie Cua and Philip Chiongbian.

Also billed is the one-day NCA 5-Cock Derby on Dec, 17, also at the Big Dome, venue of the much-awaited 2002 World Slasher 8-Cock Derby on Jan. 21, 23 and 25.

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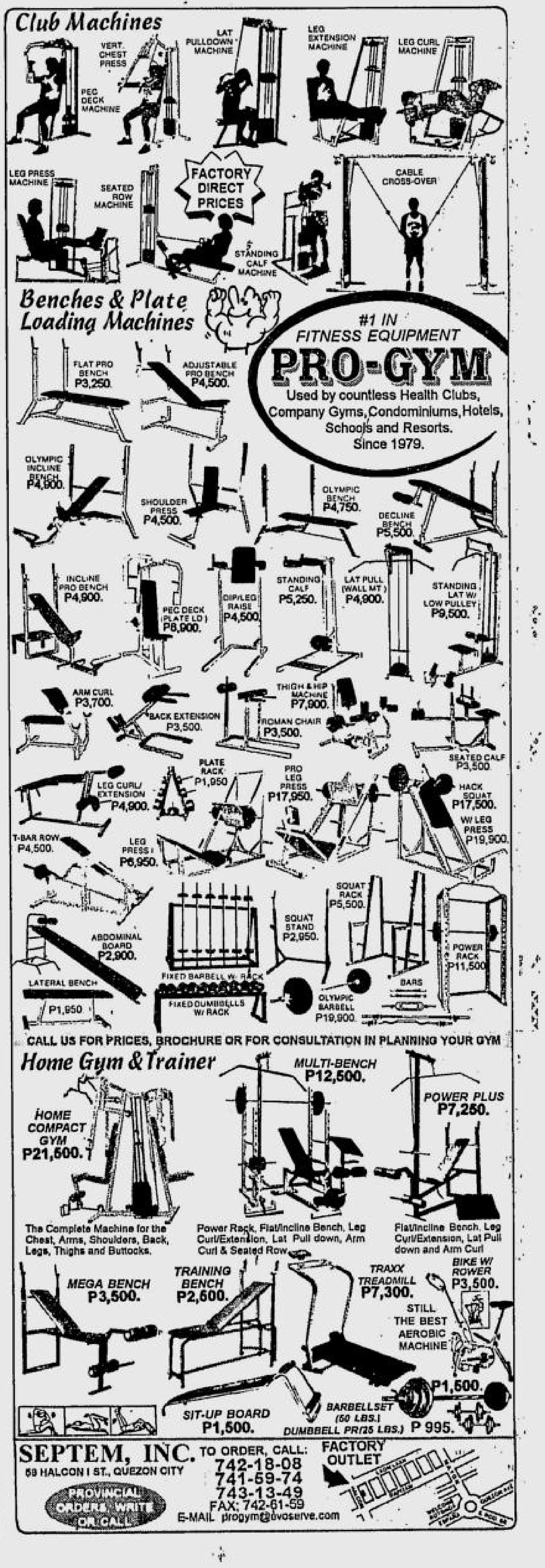

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FACTORY OUTLET

IAAF award for Johnson

MONTE CARLO, Monaco—Michael Johnson will receive the distinguished career award from the International Athletic Foundation on Sunday. Jackie Joyner-Kersee of the United States, Heike Drechsler of Germany and Sergei Bubka of Ukraine are the only other athletes that have won the award. Johnson retired last September after winning five Olympic gold medals and nine world championship golds. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

School honors Chamberlain

PHILADELPHIA—The West Philadelphia high school where Wilt Chamberlain honed his basketball skills dedicated a mosaic to the late NBA star Monday. The 2.4-meter-high (8-foot) mural of glass, tile and ceramic inside the lobby of Overbrook High School depicts Chamberlain about to release a shot. Artist Jonathan Mandell created the mosaic as a gift to the school. *AP*

BACOLOD PLAYS HOST

All set for Batang Pinoy Dec. 1-7

THE THIRD edition of the Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy unfolds Dec. 1-7 in Bacolod City, with more than 4,000 athletes participating.

Commissioner Amparo "Weena" Lim, the Batang Pinoy project director, said yesterday that it's all systems go for the Philippine Sports Commission grassroots sports development program which showcases the athletic skills of children athletes aged 12 and below.

LIM

"Everything is ready for the third Batang Pinoy, including the co-hosts—Bacolod City and Negros Occidental–which are again putting their best foot forward for the staging of the meet," said Lim.

No less than President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has been invited to grace the opening ceremonies on Dec. 1. The third Batang Pinoy is actually the first major sporting competition under the presidency of Mrs. Arroyo.

This will be the second time that Bacolod City and Negros Occidental will co-host the Batang Pinoy at the sprawling Panaad Sports Complex in Barangay Mansilingan.

The deal making the Panaad Sports Complex as venue for the third Batang Pinoy was forged in formal memorandum of agreement signing ceremonies two weeks ago among Lim, PSC chair Carlos Tuason, Bacolod City Mayor Luzviminda-Valdez and Negros Occidental Governor Joseph Maranon.

The Batang Pinoy inaugurals in 1999 were also held in Panaad, the same venue where the Centennial (1998) and Millennium (2000) Palarong Pambansa were staged.

Lim said the PSC is optimistic the third Batang Pinoy would be another success, adding she expects operations to be smoother and competitions to be tighter.

"The PSC has made it a point to improve on the first two stagings of the Batang Pinoy and with this third edition, we are more hopeful our objectives would be achieved, and that is to principally provide the best sporting venue for out future sports heroes," she said.

Durano denies accepting top cycling post

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

MAYOR Ramonito Durano III of Danao, Cebu yesterday denied he accepted the position of chair of the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association which the Philippine Olympic Committe claimed in its effort to resolve the long-standing power struggle in the association.

In a strongly worded letter to the POC dated July 20, Durano branded the POC as "presumptuous and irresponsible" in handling the Paca case and protested the "blatant lie" perpetrated by the POC officials.

POC secretary general Romy Ribaño attested last Monday that Durano indeed accepted the appointment given by the POC arbitration committee.

Ribaño said Paca president Ponciano Regalado has been trying to negotiate a deal with Durano though there are still no concrete results of the meeting just yet.

"What I know is that Regalado is now trying to convince Durano," said Ribaño. Regalado wasn't at home when the INQUIRER called him up.

"I reserve my most vehement protest against a blatant lie perpetrated by your officials," Durano said in his letter. "I never agreed to become chairman of the Paca in exchange for letting Mr. Regalado assume the presidency. Paca has a chairman in the person of Bobby Almeda."

Durano added: "The POC, in effect, has rashly presumed the matter to be settled without giving me recourse for a proper response."

Last April, the POC decided to recognize Regalado as Paca chief replacing Joaquin Preysler, but the group of Durano and Almeda, son of former Paca head Francisco, protested the POC verdict and instead called for an arbitration.

Durano and Almeda's group claimed that they have the blessings of the Union Cycliste Internationale and the Asian Cycling Confederation, which gives them the moral authority to be recognized by the POC.

"I am disappointed that the current POC's spreading reputation for doublespeak and impropriety has been validated by its latest action," Durano letter read. "Let it be known that I intend to exercise every avenue and forum to assert the legitimacy of our office."

Xmas skating meet on tap

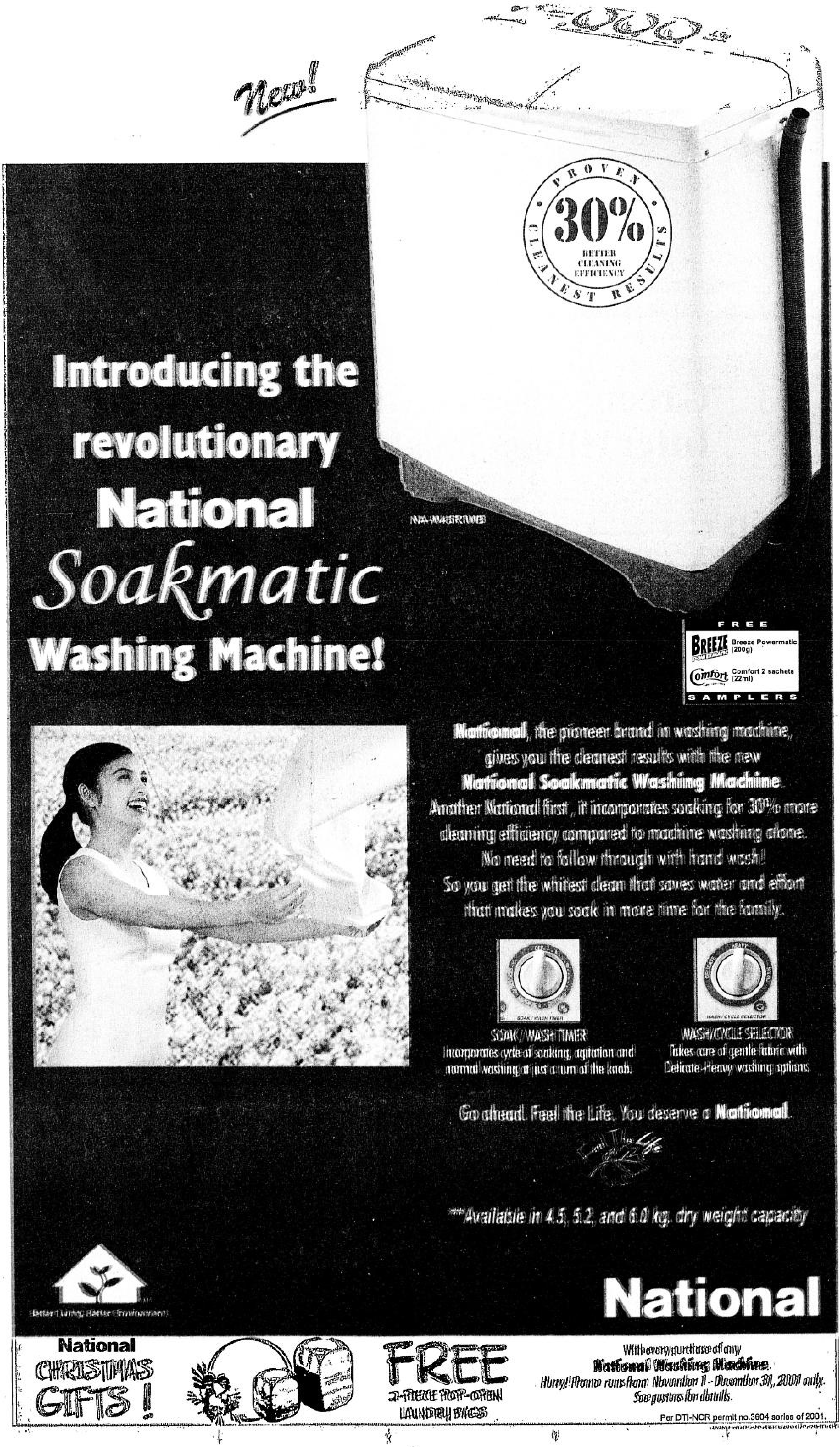
EVERYTHING is all set for the holding of the biggest Christmas ice skating event, the SM ISI-Asia Skate Philippines 2001, on Dec. 19-20 at the Southmall and Megamall ice skating rinks.

More than 200 skaters from freestyle and basic levels are expected to compete in the two-day skating event sanctioned by Ice Skating Institute-Asia (ISI-Asia) and recognized by the Ice Skating Union of the Philippines (Isup).

Awards at stake are the much-coveted Highest Pointer Award for the Freestyle and Basic levels (male and female), Most Promising Skater and Most Artistic Skater plums as well as Overall Team Championship.

Entry forms for the competition are now available at the SM-ISR office in Ortigas. For more details, call Kaye Manese, Oliver Cortezano or Llazi Gayat at 6335008.

Deadline for submission of entries is not later than Dec. 5 at the close of office hours.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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Vandolph won't lose arm or leg; girlfriend in critical state

BY LEAH SALTERIO

VANDOLPH Quizon, son of comedy king Dolphy and actress Alma Moreno, underwent a seven-hour operation yesterday at Makati Medical Center (MMC) for serious injuries sustained in a vehicular accident in Pangasinan Monday afternoon.

"Be strong, like me," Moreno whispered to her unconscious 17-year-old son as he was wheeled from the intensive care unit into the operating room about 11 a.m. She kissed him on the forehead and hugged him even as she continued to weep, while her husband, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, held her tight.

Moreno told the Inquirer her son would not lose an arm or a leg, contrary to earlier reports.

Vandolph was operated on the hips, the right arm and the right leg, which all sustained multiple fractures, according to Moreno.

Vandolph's half-brother Eric Quizon later said Vandolph would have to undergo another surgery within the week.

Eight surgeons and specialists led by Dr. Pia Banico performed yesterday's operation. Banico is also the doctor of Moreno, who recently admitted she is suffering from multiple sclerosis.

A source close to the family said Moreno was hysterical Monday night and had to be given a Valium to calm her down. Still, she slept for only three hours and kept on checking on her son in the ICU.

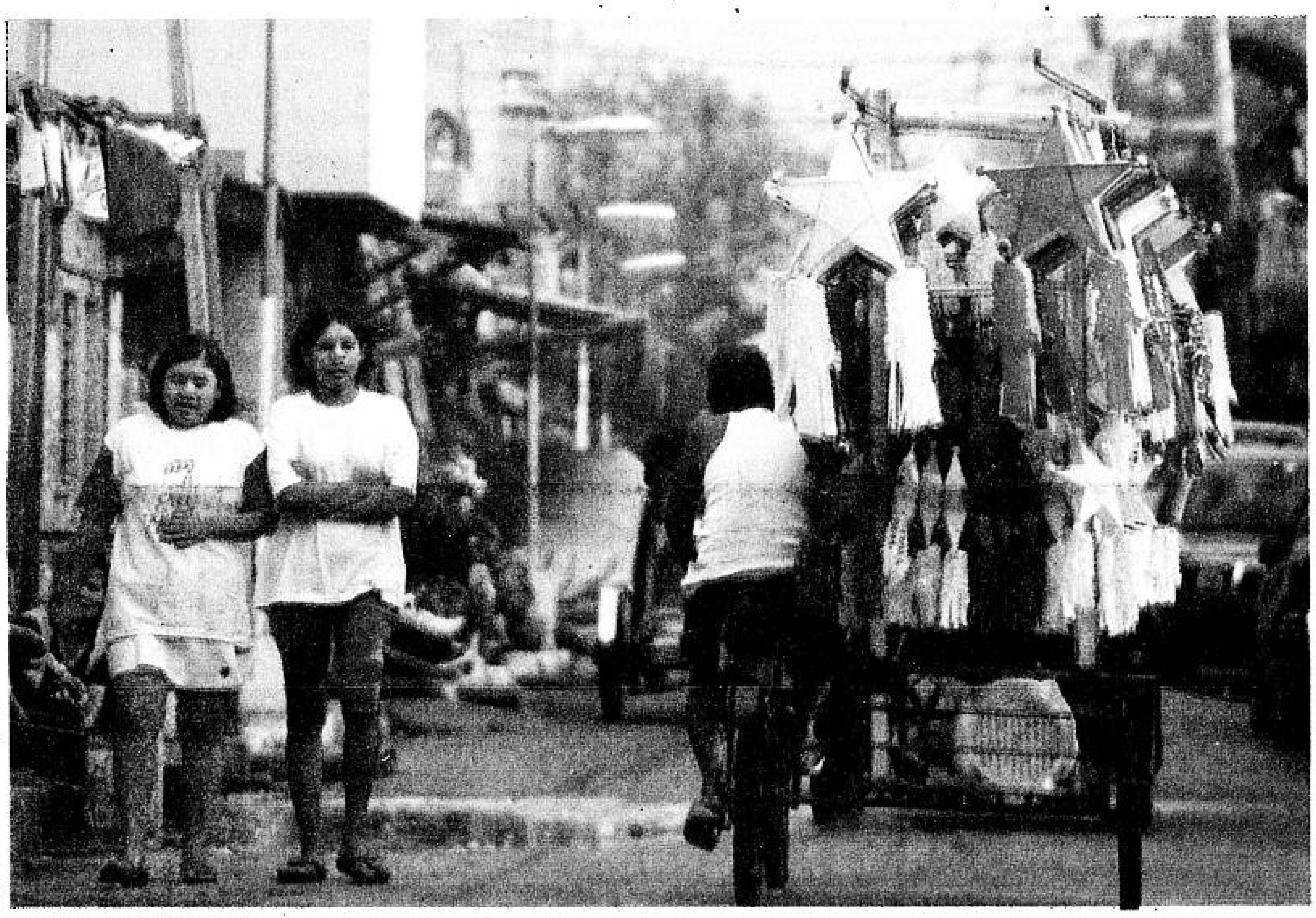
Vandolph was driving Marquez's Ford-150 pickup on his way to Baguio with his girlfriend Desiree Raquiza when he smashed into an eight-wheeler Elf truck in Pozzorubio town in Pangasinan, near the junction of Kennon Road and La Union.

The couple was accompanied by a driver, Allan Araza, and a former security guard of the Marquez fam-

VANDOLPH/A26

WITH mom Alma Moreno in 1993 file photo. She was inconsolable as he was wheeled into the operating room.

VANDOLPH was driving his stepfather's pick-up when it smashed into an eight-wheeler truck.



CHEERS FOR SALE

Just a little more than a month before Christmas should be more than enough time for this vendor on a pedicab to sell his Christmas lanterns. On this street in Parañaque, however, no one seems interested in his colorful merchandise.

4 kids killed in Pasay fire

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

FOUR children, including a 2-month-old baby, and their baby sitter were killed while another was severely injured when they were trapped in their burning house in Pasay City Monday night.

Mark Anthony Cosilit, 6, his siblings Mark Lester, 4, Cynthel Jane, 3, Mark Vincent, 2, and their baby sister who was identified only as Francesca died of severe burns at the Manila Sanitarium, said FO3 Renato Recto of the Pasay fire department.

Their sister, Hazel, 5, suffered third-degree burns and was reported to be in serious condition at the Ospital ng Maynila.

Fire investigators believe that a candle, which was left burning in the Cosilit house that night, triggered the fire.

The family had been using candles since September. Their electricity was cut off when they failed to settle the bills, Recto said.

The children were alone in their rented box house near the corner of San Juan and F.B. Harrison streets when the fire broke out at 9:35 p.m. Monday, investigation showed.

Their parents, Sherwin, 29, and Nerissa, 24, had gone outside just minutes before the fire to chat with friends, Recto said.

The fire lasted until 9:49 p.m. and only partially burned the interiors of the house, but it was enough to kill four of the Cosilit children and their caretaker, he added.

Sherwin and his wife arrived home about 10 p.m., in time to see their children being rushed to the hospital one by one, he added.

Greenpeace seeks int'l aid vs thermoselect

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE ENVIRONMENTAL group Greenpeace Philippines has asked assistance from its global network in its fight against thermoselect, the new waste disposal technology that Metro Manila mayors are pushing as the ultimate solution to the garbage problem of the metropolis.

Von Hernandez, Greenpeace campaign manager for Southeast Asia, yesterday said the group was obtaining data from their global network to prove their charges against thermoselect and Interstate Waste Management Inc., the company peddling the Swiss-made technology.

Hernandez said the local Greenpeace unit has also sent a "global alert" to Greenpeace International and other affiliate environment groups like the Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance (GAIA). He said they would also obtain information from Italy, Ireland, Poland and Lebanon, and would forward the data to Metro Manila Development Authority and Metro Manila mayors led by Parañaque's Joey Marquez who are pushing for thermoselect.

Hernandez earlier described thermoselect as a polluting technology and said Interstate Waste Management Inc. had violated many international records abroad. He also claimed that the company faced numerous financial and environmental scandals that drew jail terms in Italy for its manager Gunter Kiss and two other company officials in 1990.

Last Sunday, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. asked Hernandez to prove Greenpeace's charges against thermoselect and Interstate. He said the technology "is good and seems effective."

Hernandez yesterday countered that all the MMDA and Metro Manila mayors have to do is do some research.

On Monday, he said a thermoselect incinerator was supposedly operated in Italy without a permit and "illegally stored hazardous waste in its premises." The incinerator was shut down for a while because of its violations and on March 6, 1991, it exploded and injured two people, he added.

Hernandez also accused the company of offering bribes in 1991 and 1994 in a deal to build a thermoselect factory in Switzerland.

"The technology...is a variant of incineration," he said. "It generates toxic fumes and toxic ash that would end up in landfills and contaminate groundwater reservoirs."

The Clean Air Act bans the use of incineration to process waste.

In a letter sent to the Inquirer on Monday, Roger van den Berghe, Interstate consultant in the Philippines, denied the allegations and explained that the alleged toxic waste stored in the Italian plant was in fact a "by-product" waiting to undergo the technology's recycling system at that time.

Van den Berghe said the plant was eventually allowed to operate after an investigation by Italian authorities.

Hernandez cited another incident in Germany: Last year, a thermoselect incinerator plant in Karisruhe, Germany was shut down after it was found to be breaking toxic emission guidelines, he said.

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Oil giants oppose oil depot transfer

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND JEROME ANING

THE THREE big oil companies on Monday strongly opposed the Manila city government's move to transfer the firms' oil depots from a densely populated 32-hectare site in Pandacan district to another, safer site in Metro Manila.

Yesterday morning, the Manila city council passed into law a re-zoning ordinance that would effectively phase out the Pandacan oil depot and smaller fuel storage facilities in Sta. Ana, Manila.

In a position paper submitted to the Senate committees on energy and natural resources, officials of Caltex Philippines on Monday acknowledged that the aggressive push for the phaseout was triggered by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

They said since the establishment of the Pandacan terminal in 1923, there has never been an ugly incident at the site, environmental or otherwise.

"We at Caltex place a great premium on environmental safety," the position paper said. "Hence, the terminal has in place the necessary safety procedures and equipment to guard against any untoward incident."

Caltex insisted the risks reported in media were not significant enough to merit the transfer of the depots.

Caltex also asked the Senate for another year to study the merits of the transfer.

But Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who was present in the Senate hearing, rejected the proposal, saying "the threat (of a possible conflagration if the three oil depots are attacked by terrorists) is a clear and present danger."

Atienza added the city government has been serving notice of transfer to the Caltex, Shell and Petron companies for the last eight years.

"The city of Manila is helpless," Atienza told the energy committee chaired by Sen. Renato Cayetano, and the environment committee under Sen. Robert Jaworski.

Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Ramon Paje said his office supports the transfer of the oil depots to a proposed 400-hectare reclamation site at Manila Bay near the mouth of the Pasig River.

But Manila Councilor Alejandro "Kim" Atienza said he would also protest any attempt to relocate the depot to another site in Manila or to any area within 10 kilometers of the capital's borders.

"The depot should be transferred to an area that is unpopulated and far, far away from Manila," he said.

Councilor Jocelyn Dawis-Asuncion of the 6th district, principal author of the re-zoning ordinance that was passed into law yesterday, told the INQUIRER that she expects the oil firms to bring the matter to court.

But she said she and her colleagues are "prepared" to face any challenges.

All but one of the 26 councilors at the session voted in favor of the ordinance, reclassifying the depot site from Industrial II to Commercial I. Councilor Cita Astals of the 5th district abstained but did not go on record to explain her vote.

Fuel firms operating in the area are given a period of six months from the date of effectivity of the ordinance to cease and desist their operations.

Atienza said he would not renew next year's business licenses of the five oil firms using the depot—Petron, Caltex, Shell, Unioil and Mobil.

Earlier, officials of the Department of Energy and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said they wanted a longer deadline for the phaseout, so they could seek for a suitable location for the depot.

But the councilors said the passage of the ordinance is very urgent because the city's fire and police authorities have admitted that they were ill-equipped to fight a big fire in the depot or avert a terrorist strike on the facility.

Taguig blast injures 6

IMPROVISED bombs exploded and injured at least six people during the demolition of commercial establishments in Taguig yesterday morning, police said.

Violence erupted when a 1,000 demolition team with about 1,000 members began tearing down the structures of allegedly illegal settlers on the access road of C-5 Road near Heritage Park around 8 a.m. The residents responded by hurling stones, pillboxes, and a molotov bomb at the demolition men, police said.

Alan Bernardino, 20, Gerard Orea, 21, Benjamin Loyola, 21, Peter Perin, 18, Jefferson Glorioso, 16, and Long Maganoy, 32, suffered head and body injuries after getting hit by stones and pillbox shrapnel, police said. All were part of the demolition team.

Police arrested Joel Tagbilis, 19, for allegedly throwing a pillbox.

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority and the Taguig local government started the demolition to pave the way for the delayed widening of C-5 Road. The establishments were allegedly built without the proper permits from the local government.

Christian V. Esguerra

MOTORBIKES VS KIDNAPPING

This is neither an accident nor an arrest. These men from the Philippine National Police and the Anti-Crime Task Force of the Armed Forces are taking part in the motorcyle riding course conducted by the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-Kidnapping for Ransom Task Force (Naktaf). The Naktaf chief, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, said speed and mobility are crucial in pursuing kidnappers. He urged the public to report kidnapping for ransom cases through the Naktaf hotlines 724-8834 and 726-6508. JOAN BONDOC

Please don't buy this sorcery from the DILG

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HERE'S a prescription from a licensed national witch doctor: If newspapers toned down coverage of kidnappings, there would be less of this social scourge.

That, according to Interior Secretary Jose Lina, should help provide a cure to the national ill. If media would only practice self-restraint in reporting kidnapping stories, Lina claimed, kidnappings would be prevented.

Self-restraint. Lina said exactly that in recommending a cure to what he perceives to be a major media affliction.

The way he had worded his accusation, Lina clearly meant that the press had influenced and had in a big way provided the how-to booklet to would-be kidnappers.

"Let's face it, some of these are copycat kidnappings," Lina said.

Funny, but as could be expected, the interior secretary failed to back his claim with even a bit of statistic.

* * *

The press is to blame for the upsurge in kidnappings?

That would be easy to buy if, say, any of the captured abductors had confessed and confirmed that he had plotted the kidnapping of this or that rich guy by following step-by-step instructions as reported in our national dailies.

After Joey Lina predictably failed to back his claim, we are constrained to wonder why he has suddenly found a convenient scapegoat in the media following the alarming soar in kidnapping cases.

OK, he has his post to preserve, his old name to protect.

But, in trying to hold on to his threatened position as DILG chief, Lina has obviously overlooked one rule in equation and street journalism. As the rule goes, the more times crimes are committed, the bigger volume of crime stories will have to be reported.

* * *

But prejudiced coverage is not the sole problem with media, Lina noted.

Another big problem with the press, Lina had said in a previous television interview, is that it only takes interest in what's savage and saleable.

If there's no blood, media won't find that story fit to print, or something to that effect, as Lina had charged.

Of course, Lina failed to take note that media were likewise quick to report and detail successful anti-crime operations. Like that raid on a big shabu lab in Pasig. Like the killing of members of a kidnapping gang, and a few other successful ventures by government forces.

The problem here, and indeed it is a big problem, is that kidnappings have far outnumber successful anti-crime operations.

And, as could only be expected, media had no other recourse but report the exact score, often lopsided as this has been against our beleaguered lawmen.

* * *

The press was always there to detail heroism.

Unfortunately today, the villains often succeed in making lawmen look lost and silly.

The idea is not to glorify crime. More aptly, and this is directed mainly to the interior secretary, the press is there also to inform him and other crime fighters on how sickeningly they have lagged behind in the campaign against crime.

Well, with this strange stance, it should not come as a surprise if the MMDA chair himself followed suit and next claimed that uncollected garbage has mounted to monstrous proportions because media had made it appear as awful as that.

Unfortunately for the MMDA, and all of us city residents, the gigantic mess is there for everybody to abhor.

Now, as both the DILG chief and the MMDA chair are in the same harried boat—their underachieving agencies have become the butt of jokes—they would predictably refuse to take the blame.

They have to keep passing the buck in order to stay afloat.

There's a great danger here. This disease that pushes the aggrieved party to blame others could itself turn very contagious.

Who knows, one of these days even our failed national sports leaders would train their guns on media for detailing Filipino misadventures in international fields.

Just like Mr. Lina, these sports authorities could also claim that our athletes kept on failing because the sports pages had been emphasizing the setbacks of our athletes.

* * *

Truth is, responsible media can never be caught reporting untruths.

In the case of the very victorious Efren "Bata" Reyes, media have again been trumpeting his latest conquests for the youth to emulate.

Anyway, just to verify that alarming charge aired by Secretary Lina against the media, I have started to ask around.

You would be jolted by the first-hand info I have so far gathered.

People I talked to, all kindhearted and very accommodating, were unanimous in their verdict. If they had been in the shoes of criminals, they would have themselves been encouraged to stage kidnappings and robberies.

Why? Because the lameduck system has made it appear both convenient and extremely profitable to break the law in the Philippines.

Those interviewed were also no longer surprised that cops and military men were also involved in robberies and kidnappings.

These indeed are impossible times that should lead harried authorities to beg cure from sorcerers.

Vandolph won't lose arm or leg . . .

(From page A25)

ily, Ruel Biong, who were in the backseat of the pickup.

Reports said Vandolph's pickup tried to overtake another vehicle just as it passed the Bugayong Bridge in Binalonan, when it collided with an eight-wheeler truck.

Vandolph was flown by a private helicopter from the Sacred Heart Hospital in Urdaneta, Pangasinan, around 9 p.m. last night. Witnesses had brought him to the Sacred Heart after the accident.

At the Sacred Heart, Vandolph had a blood transfusion before he was airlifted to Manila.

Marquez said they had to pass by the Trauma Hospital in Dagupan City, where Raquiza was taken from the Sacred Heart.

The girlfriend, who is also Vandolph's classmate at the Colegio de San Agustin in Makati, is the granddaughter of former Assemblyman Antonio Raquiza. Both she and Vandolph are in junior high school.

Raquiza was not allowed to be airlifted to Manila last night because she was in a critical condition and reportedly suffered internal hemorrhage.

Good Samaritans

But yesterday noon, she was also brought to the MMC. She was flown by the same helicopter that brought Vandolph from Pangasinan.

Moreno said Vandolph had borrowed the pickup from Marquez four days before the accident, after Vandolph's own Ford Expedition broke down.

"If not for those good Samaritans who brought them to the hospital, they would have been dead," Marquez said.

The former child actor, whose name came from those of his parents, Vanessa and Dolphy, had been unconscious from the time of the accident Monday afternoon until he was wheeled into the MMC operating room yesterday morning.

Doctors kept on assuring Moreno that her son was out of danger and was in stable condition.

"I will not be convinced that my son is stable until he wakes up and I talk to him," Moreno said.

Emergency clearance

Her husband, Mayor Marquez, had borrowed a chopper from former senator Juan Ponce Enrile, to fly Vandolph from Pangasinan to Manila. The helicopter took off from the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City after securing an emergency clearance to fly from the Air Transportation Office (ATO).

"I was not aware that choppers are not allowed to fly at night," Marquez told the Inquirer. "I must commend and thank the two pilots who bravely flew the chopper for us."

Moreno said they called up the emergency hotline Call 117 of the Department of Interior and Local Government earlier yesterday and asked about a helicopter.

"But we were told they can only assist us in the morning," Moreno said.

Marquez rode in the helicopter with Dolphy and his partner Zsa Zsa Padilla and Ruel Ricaforte, father of Alma's actress niece LJ Moreno.

On its return flight, the helicopter carried Vandolph, a doctor, a nurse and Dolphy.

Marquez, Padilla and Ricaforte returned to Manila by land and arrived in the hospital around 3 a.m. yesterday.

Praying, crying

From the Villamor Airbase, an ambulance brought Vandolph to the MMC at midnight on Monday. A series of tests was performed on him in the emergency room, before he was brought to Room 11 of the ICU.

Moreno was waiting in the emergency room with the other members of the Quizon family, including Vandolph's half-siblings Eric, Rolly, Sally, Jeffrey and Boy-2.

"I was the one who gathered the team of doctors who would attend to him (Vandolph)," Moreno said. "All the time that I was waiting, I kept on praying and crying. I was even praying for fine weather so they would not have a hard time flying from Pangasinan."

Also in the hospital were Mark Anthony Fernandez, Moreno's son with action star Rudy Fernandez, LJ Moreno, and Gio Alvarez and Smokey Manaloto, Vandolph's costars in the ABS-CBN sitcom "Home Along Da Riles," where Vandolph also works with his dad.

After midnight, action king Fernando Poe Jr., Vandolph's godfather, also arrived in the hospital.

"She was the only girl whom Vandolph introduced to me," Moreno said of Vandolph's girlfriend. "One day, while I was rehearsing for a show at Another World (her bar-restaurant in Parañaque), he came up to me and introduced his girlfriend."

Hospital suite

Dolphy and Zsa Zsa booked another suite on the same floor of the hospital, where they slept over Monday night.

Inside Vandolph's suite yesterday, Moreno had her first meal in nearly 24 hours. She and Marquez ordered tapsilog from the hospital restaurant.

"The last time I ate was lunch on Monday at Hyatt," said Moreno, who didn't even finish her food.

Vandolph's long-time nanny, Yaya Rose, was also inside the room. She carried with her recent colored photos of Vandolph.

"The photos of Vandolph which have been coming out in the newspapers show him when he was still overweight," Yaya Rose said. "But he is now slim."

Vandolph and his girlfriend's San Agustin teachers also went to MMC yesterday.

Moreno recalled that she also had a car accident also in Pangasinan in 1976, when she was still new in show biz.

"I came from Baguio and I was riding in the van of former President Joseph Estrada because I was then a contract star of Crown Seven Productions, owned by his brother Jesse Ejercito," she said.

"I had to have head stitches when I was brought to the Chinese Medical Hospital from a small clinic in Pangasinan."

She described her son as very sweet and affectionate.

"Every where he went, he always had pasalubong for us," she said. "He is also very generous. On special occasions, he (and Mark) give me jewelry, which they buy with their show biz earnings."

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Manor Hotel owners plead innocent

BY AGNES E. DONATO

THE OWNERS and incorporators of the Quezon City Manor Hotel yesterday pleaded innocent to charges filed against them in connection with the death of 81 people and the wounding of 19 others in the Aug. 18 fire.

Only Manor Hotel incorporator Antonio Beltran failed to appear for the arraignment before Judge Evangeline Castillo of the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 43.

Those who entered their plea of not guilty were hotel owners William and Rebecca Genato and incorporators Porfirio Germina, Marion Fernandez and Dionisio Cua Arengino.

They were accused of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and serious physical injuries, reckless imprudence resulting in slight physical injuries, and violation of the Quezon City Revenue Code. "There's really nothing surprising about this," Roberto Barrales, lawyer for the victims, said of the defense plea. "Of course, we never expect them to admit to the crime."

He is representing the families of 75 of the 81 who died as well as the 19 who were injured in the fire that reportedly was caused by faulty electrical wiring.

The hotel owners were being held responsible for ignoring the seven fire safety violations found by the Bureau of Fire Protection in August 2000.

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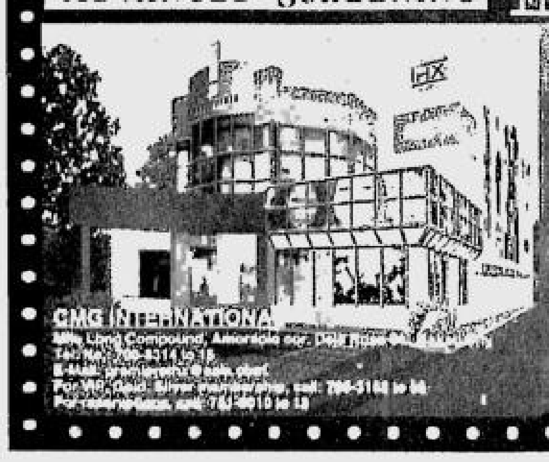

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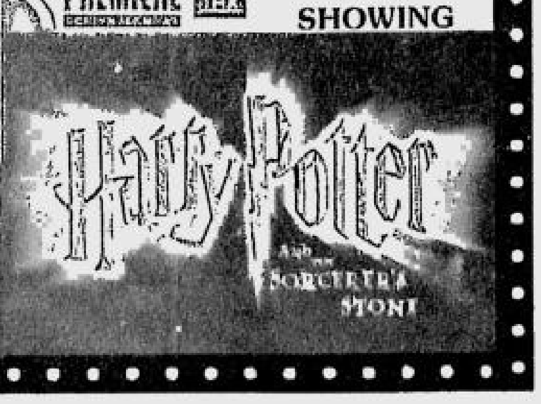

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4	SERENDIPITY
5	HARRY POTTER
6	EARTHQUAKE
7	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
9	KAPITAN AMBO
10	JOY RIDE

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	HARRY POTTER
2	EARTHQUAKE
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4	SERENDIPITY
5	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6	GLITTER
7	HARRY POTTER

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	GLITTER
2	GLITTER
3	EARTHQUAKE
4	HARRY POTTER
5	HARRY POTTER
6	SERENDIPITY
7	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
8	KAPITAN AMBO

IMUS
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1	HARRY POTTER
2	DUGONG ASO
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
4	WEYT AT MINIT
5	EARTHQUAKE
6	KAPITAN AMBO

BACOLOD
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1	HARRY POTTER
2	HARRY POTTER
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	EXTREME FORCE
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	TRIP

METRO EAST
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1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	DUGONG ASO
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4	GLITTER
5	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6	HARRY POTTER
7	HARRY POTTER
8	EARTHQUAKE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KAPITAN AMBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WEYT A MINIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	GLITTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	EARTHQUAKE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SIDHI / CLIMAX
ODEON	HARRY POTTER
ODEON-2	KAPITAN AMBO
ROBEN	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	CROCODILE / ST. FRANCIS VILLE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
REMAR	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
REMAR-2	HARRY POTTER
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
B	KAPITAN AMBO
C	DUGONG ASO
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	GLITTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	THE ONE
CINEMA-2	TRIP
CINEMA-3	KAPITAN AMBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KING OF GLADIATORS
CINEMA-6	DUGONG ASO
CINEMA-7	ANO BANG MERON KA
CINEMA-8	WEYT A MINIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-12	GLITTER
CINEMA-14	EARTHQUAKE
CINEMA-15	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-5	GLITTER
CINEMA-6	HARRY POTTER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

IMBRUGLIA. Comes out with "White Lilies Island"

Natalie Imbruglia back after four years

WHERE do you go when you're "Left in the Middle?"

To "White Lilies Island."

Absurd as that may sound, it makes perfect musical sense to one Natalie Imbruglia. And who's to oppose the musical direction the multi-platinum seller has charted for herself? Certainly not the millions of people who have adored her since her monster debut album came out four years ago. Not the critics who lauded "Left in the Middle" as one of the most distinguishable albums in pop history.

Back after four years of finding herself and the fitting follow-up to her pop coup "Left of Middle," Australian singer Natalie Imbruglia seduces listeners once again with "White Lilies Island."

Written in the UK and America, but recorded in London with a variety of producers (Fan Stanley, Gary Clark, Phil Thornally and Pascal Gabriel), "White Lilies Island" is the sound of a grown-up artist who is secure in her abilities.

Listening to it, you know Natalie has lived and loved enough to have something worthwhile to say.

"My hope is that I sound comfortable with myself," says Natalie. "I can't do Britney. I can't just bounce out there and do happy pop.

"The people who made me want to do this in the first place—women like Joni Mitchell and Shawn Colvin—draw on what has happened to them in life, turning the specific into the universal. I'm big on that, too."

The new album is foreshadowed by the in-your-face track "That Day," written with Madonna's sidekick, Patrick Leonard.

"White Lilies Island" is as edgy as the first album. The new single has a matured outlook than "Torn."

"White Lilies Island" is now available under BMG Records Pilipinas.

'Vagina Monologues' returns onstage

L2 CONCEPTS Company, with Granny Goose Tortillos and Hygeia feminine hygienic underwear, presents "The Vagina Monologues," the critically acclaimed material written by Eve Ensler, Nov. 23, 8 p.m. at the Philamlife Theater, United Nations Avenue, Manila.

Performers include Lara Fabregas, Tammy Monsod and Lynn Sherman.

For ticket inquiries, call L2 Concepts at 256-3055, or 0916-3365980.

Sharon forgives Robin and gets a torrid kiss

(From page A32)

Robin together was "Di Na Natuto" in 1993.

Forgiven

Sharon now has only glowing words for her leading man as well as director Joyce Bernal. She can even joke now about the time she refused to talk to Robin on the set of "Di Na Natuto" for courting her when all along he was already committed to Liezl Sicangco, whom he married later.

"I have forgiven his unprofessionalism in the past," she says of Robin. "He had problems then and had no control of himself. The Robin of today is a changed man. He reports on the set ahead of me. He is there even before the cameras are set up.

"One thing I discovered about Robin, even before, he seems unaware that he is a celebrity. He mixes with anybody and his priority is making sure that his leading lady is always comfortable. He is now a very focused person and you can feel his sincerity.

"*Sa tutoo lang, hindi ko inakalang titino siya,*" she adds.

As for director Bernal, with whom Sharon worked for the first time, she says: "She is good, creative and a fast worker. Considering her pregnant condition, I am truly amazed. We worked on the same wavelength. I told her to hurry up giving birth and I would be willing to shoulder the expenses so she could direct me in my next movie."

Torrid kiss

"Pagdating ng Panahon" is a feel-good movie. Sharon calls it a breath of fresh air in the industry that has been hit by the successive deaths of some of its members.

In the story written by Mel del Rosario, Sharon comes from a family of spinsters who seem to cast a bad spell on every suitor they entertain. Sharon bakes *espasol* and *buko* pie while Robin gathers tuba. They often clash, only to realize in the end that they can't live without each other.

Also in the cast are Rufa Mae Quinto, Amy Austria, Bernard Palanca, Rosemarie Gil, and Marissa Delgado. Christian Vazquez, the son in the "*suportahan ta ka*" TV commercial, is introduced.

The movie includes a scene in which Robin plants a torrid kiss on Sharon. When informed beforehand about the scene, Sharon wanted to have it faked but she eventually agreed do it, convinced by Direk Joyce.

Blessed

"You see, in the movie, I spread a rumor that Robin is gay," says Sharon. "When it reaches him, he is furious and to prove that he is not gay he kisses me hard. The story really calls for it. It took us only two takes and there was absolutely no malice."

The all-time box-office queen reiterates that her family will always rank first with her. She says she is extremely blessed having raised a good daughter like KC Concepcion who, she says, obviously with a big sigh of relief, is not keen on making movies.

"I am really glad she is not, lest people think that we would come as a package deal," the proud mom says. "She is more into singing and the theater. I allowed her to do a commercial and a musical play because it was vacation time. She is interested in doing Shakespheare on stage. Right now, her priority is her studies. I want her to pursue her studies in Europe."

Sharon says she wants to have another baby, preferably a son, in 2002.

And be as round as a balloon again, we kid her.

"*Eh 'di magpapayat uli,*" she snaps back.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JOY RIDE - P 13 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	HARRY POTTER - GP 11:00, 1:50, 5:00, 8:10	HARRY POTTER - GP 11:40, 2:50, 6:00, 9:10
SERENDIPITY - P 13 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	GLITTER - P 13 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10

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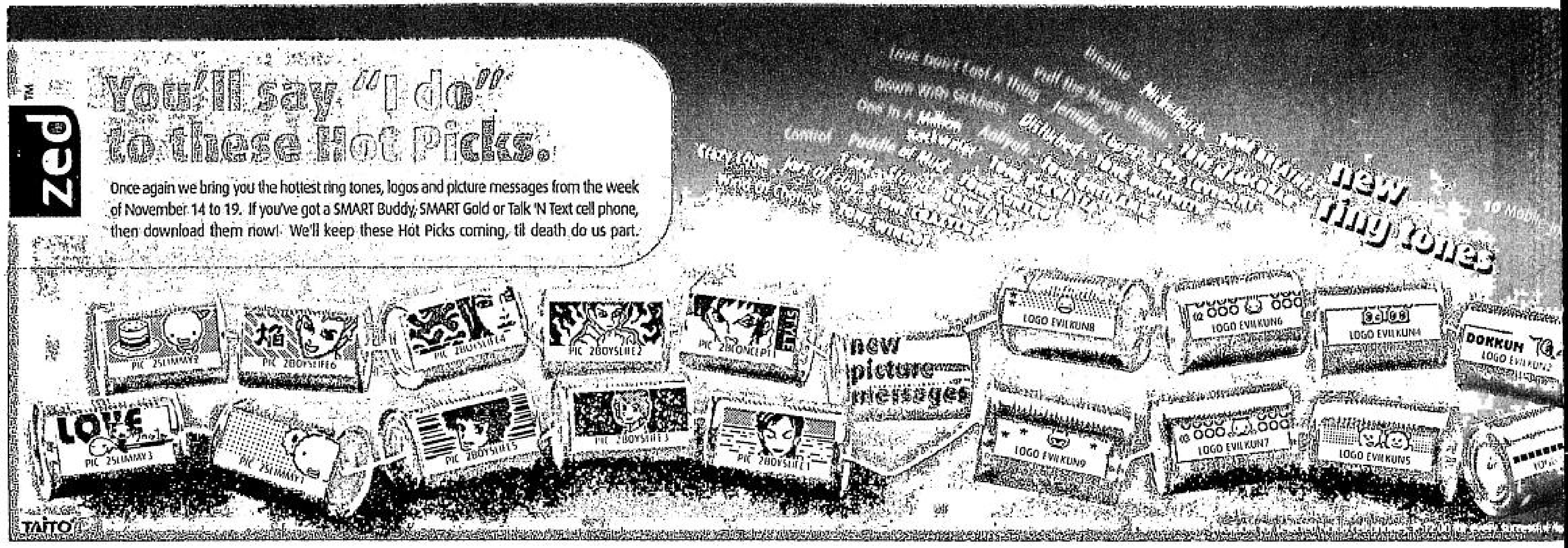
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Once again we bring you the hottest ring tones, logos and picture messages from the week of November 14 to 19. If you've got a SMART Buddy, SMART Gold or Talk 'N Text cell phone, then download them now! We'll keep these Hot Picks coming, til death do us part.
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Breathe
Puff the Magic Dragon
Down With Sickness
One In A Million
Control
Puddle of Mudd
Aaliyah
new picture messages
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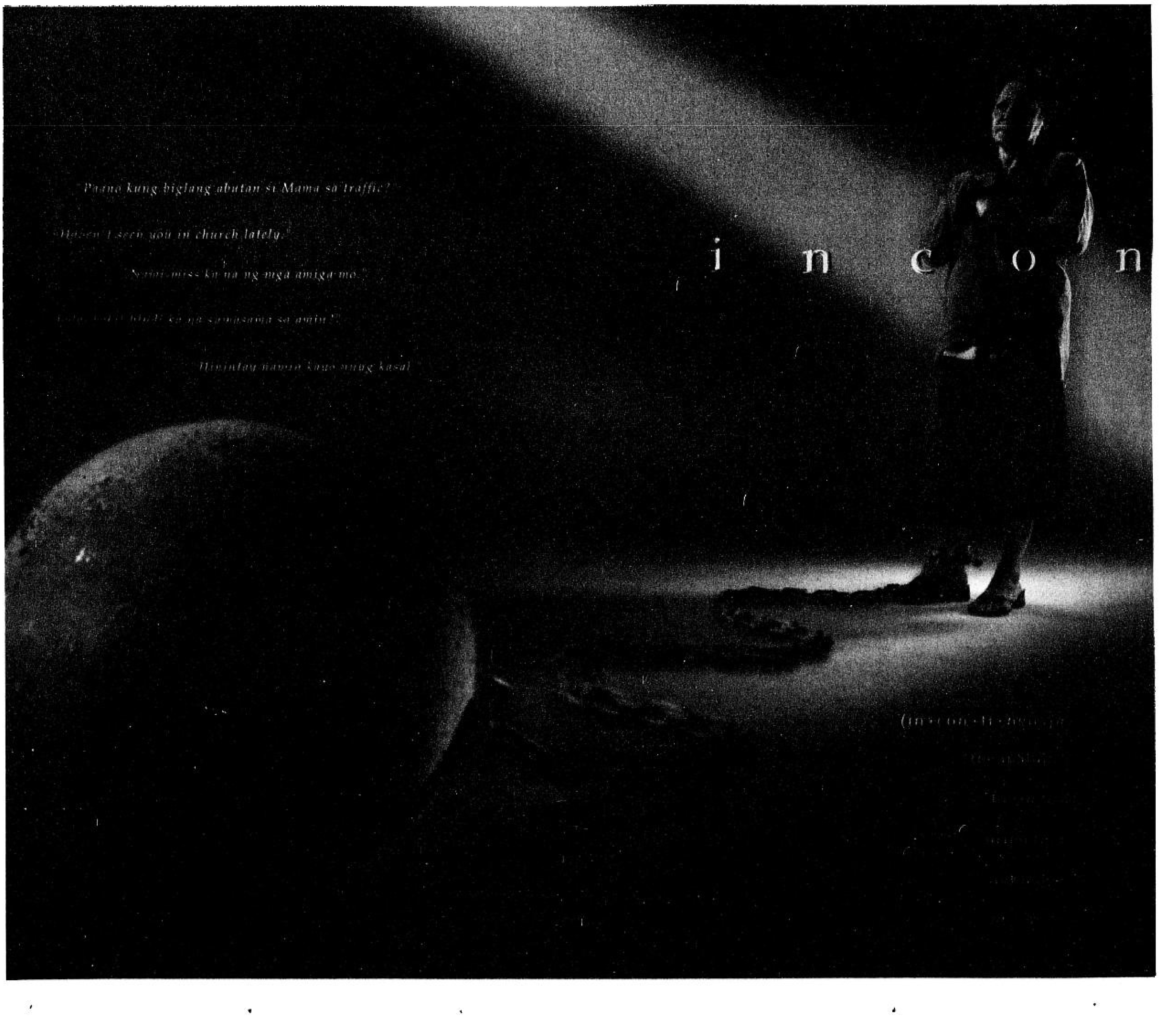
PIC 2BOYSLIFE6
PIC 2BOYSLIFE4
PIC 2BOYSLIFE2
PIC 2BCONCEPT1
PIC 2SLIMMY3
PIC 2SLIMMY1
PIC 2BOYSLIFE5
PIC 2BOYSLIFE3
PIC 2BOYSLIFE1
LOGO EVILKUN8
LOGO EVILKUN6
LOGO EVILKUN4
DOKKUN LOGO EVILKUN2
LOGO EVILKUN9
LOGO EVILKUN7
LOGO EVILKUN5
TAITO



"Paano kung biglang abutan si Mama sa traffic?"
"Haven't I seen you in church lately?"
"Nami-miss ka na ng mga amiga mo."
"Hindi ka na sumasama sa amin?"
"Hinintay namin kayo nung kasal"
i n c o n

Third Big Dome show for band that didn't dare to dream big

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN a group of college students from Davao got together to form a band, little did they know they would reach great heights.

Today, the members of Freestyle still find it incredible that they have come this far as a music band.

"We didn't seriously plan for this," reveals Freestyle vocalist **Christopher "Top" Suzara**.

"We had no intention to even release an album. It was a dream, but we never thought of even pursuing it."

Freestyle was born in Davao in 1996, when former First Circle members **Jinky Vidal, Tat Suzara** and **Gerald Banzon** decided to form a singing group.

"From Manila, they returned to Davao to finish college at the Ateneo," Top shares. "But they missed the music scene so they got together and formed a different group."

Jinky became the frontliner and lead vocalist, while Tat played lead guitar and Gerald played the drums. **Tzuki Garcia** and **Obet Luzon** were the two other members.

FREESTYLE. Best legacy.

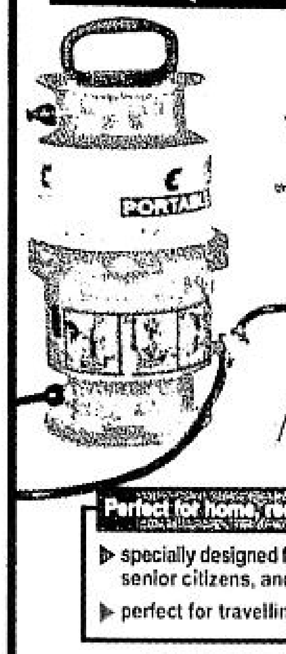
With only five members, Freestyle got its name from a fashion magazine.

"We all liked it and we adopted it as the name of the band," Jinky says. "It was simple and it was not hard to remember."

The group started performing on campuses in Davao. Soon, Freestyle became a byword in the Davao music scene. It was not too long before they conquered Manila, too.

Top, who is Tat's cousin, joined

THIRD/ A31



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5 Jessie's Girl Rick Springfield TONE JESSIES
6 Volare Gypsy Kings TONE VOLARE
7 Superman Five For Fighting TONE SUPERMANS
8 Bahay Kubo TONE BANAYKUBO
9 Fax Tone Different Sounds TONE FAX
terference Different Sounds TONE GSM

Top ten logos

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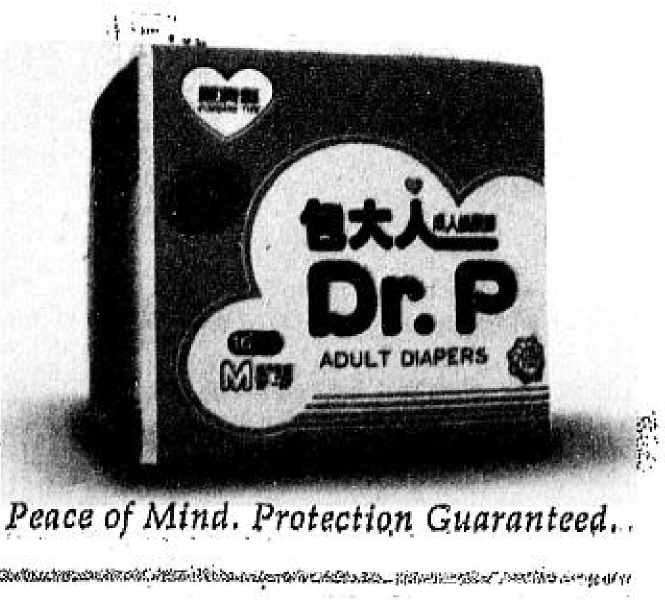

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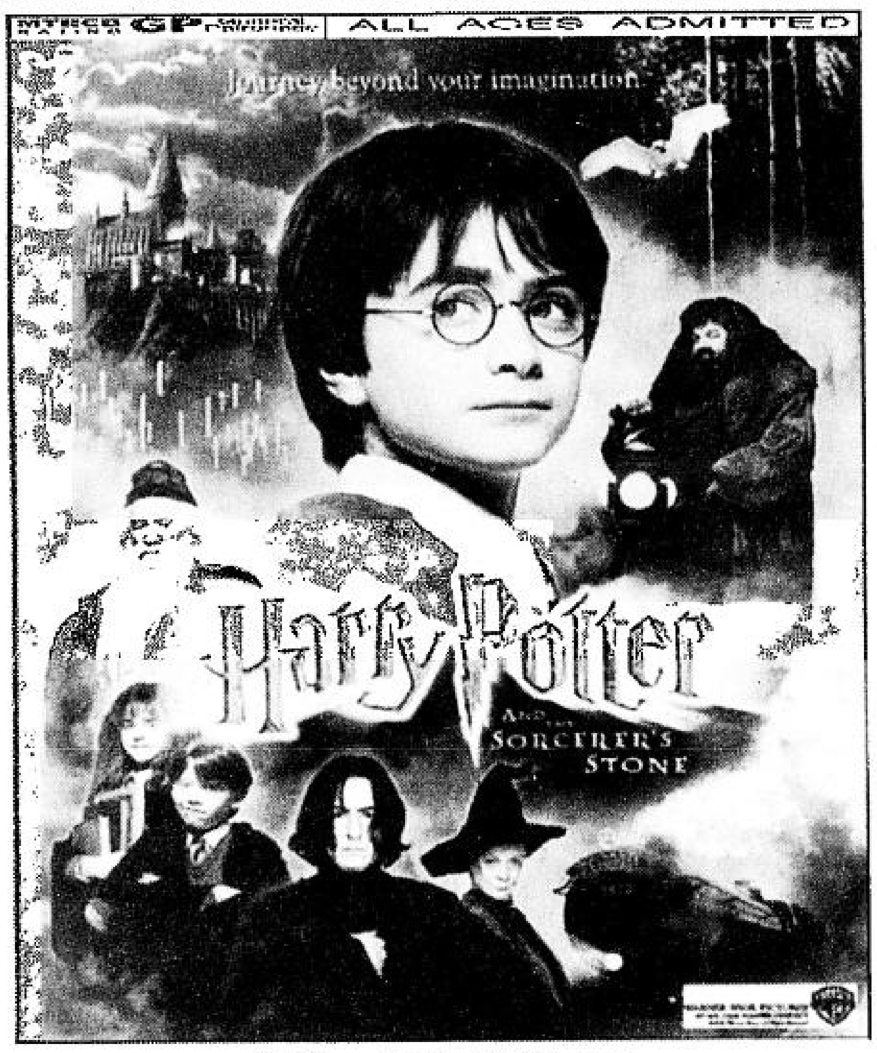

Journey beyond your imagination
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

@ The All Digital Sound
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GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

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GLORIETTA 4 cinema 3 (THX / Guaranteed Seat) - 1:20pm, 4:30, 7:40, 10:50 LMF
GLORIETTA 4 cinema 6 - 12:10 pm , 3:20 , 6:30 , 9:40 LMF
GLORIETTA 1 cinema 1 - 11:30 am , 2:40 pm , 5:50 , 9:00 LMF
GLORIETTA 1 cinema 3 - 10:50 am , 2:00 pm , 5:10 , 8:20 LMF
GREENBELT cinema 1 - 11:00 am , 2:00 pm , 5:00 , 8:00 LMF
GREENBELT cinema 3 - 1:00 pm , 4:00 , 7:00 , 9:00 LMF
ALABANG TOWN CENTER cinema (THX) 1 - 1:00 pm , 4:10 , 7:20 , 10:30 LMF
ALABANG TOWN CENTER cinema 2 - 12:30pm , 3:40 , 6:50 , 10:00 LMF
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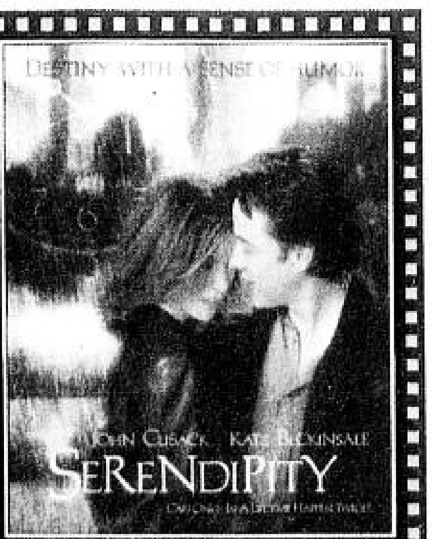

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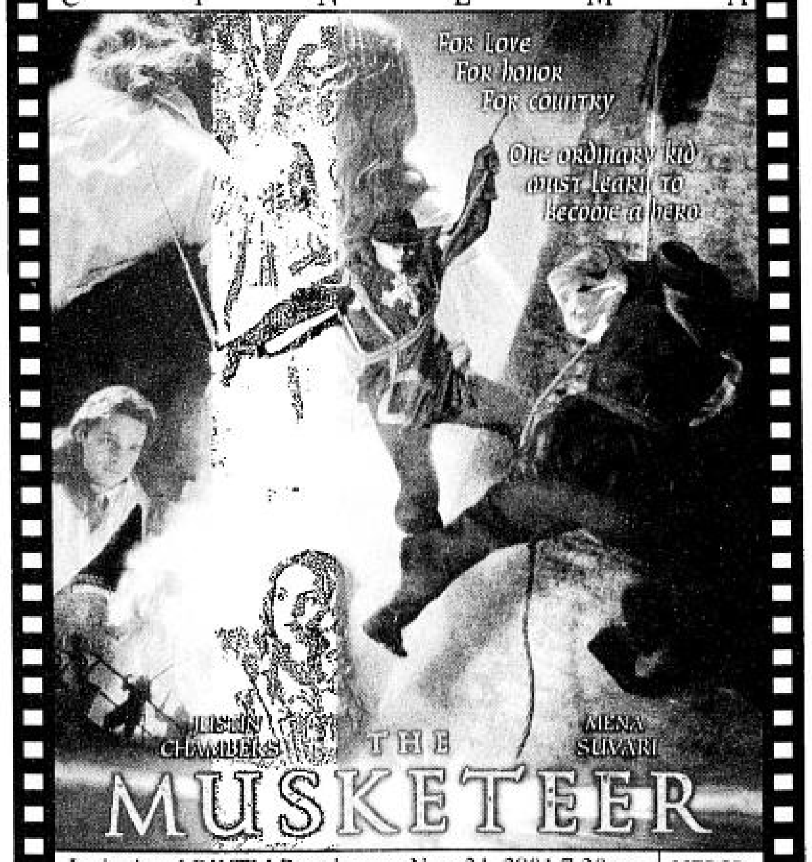

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One ordinary kid must learn to become a hero
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MARIAH CAREY
glitter
www.glittermovie.com

From 'orphan' to pop superstar

Mariah in a heartwarming rags-to-riches music drama

Pop music legend Mariah Carey makes her major feature film debut in Columbia Pictures' GLITTER, an emotional and heartwarming drama with music featuring her hits "Never Too Far" and "Loverboy."

GLITTER is the story of a young singer, Billie Frank, who overcomes a troubled childhood and struggles to find her true family and her true voice.

Abandoned as a child by her mother, Billie grows up in an orphanage. Discovered by a charismatic "bad boy" deejay who becomes her lover, she is soon on her way to pop superstardom.

OPENS TOMORROW

On wings of cinematic wizardry

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday, the hottest tickets in town were invitations to the Philippine premiere of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Store" at Premiere THX Cinema.

We joined hundreds of film buffs gone potty over Potter, hoping that the evening's promise of an exhilarating voyage into the wonderful world of childlike imagination would result in a memorable and viewing experience. Except for some stolid interludes, we weren't disappointed.

Right off the bat, **Chris Columbus'** film had us empathizing with the movie's young hero. Who wouldn't feel for a protagonist who, even as a baby, already bore the scar of a wound inflicted on its innocent forehead by an evil master-wizard, after brutally slaying the baby's parents?

To give the baby a chance at a normal childhood, his parents' fellow-wizards deposited him at the front door of his uncle and aunt's home. Alas, they turned out to be cruel step-parents who treated the boy most shabbily, even as they spoiled their bratty son to plump perdition.

Thus did the film make sure that we would be rooting for its young hero throughout the movie's unusually long running time.

By the time he had been freed from his cruddy relative's clutches and taken by magical train to a school where he would develop his already admirable skills in wizardry, Hary Potter had us in the palm of his hand.

We fretted along with him as he had to contend with nasty characters like a precociously evil student and a vicious-looking potions professor.

And we cheered as he beat the evil student's team in a dizzying aerial ballgame.

Early on, we were informed that a new complication would give young Harry and his two young friends, Ron and Hermione, more problems: A powerful sorcerer's stone that was being guarded at the school by a three-headed giant dog was coveted by a mysterious villain who needed it for regeneration purposes.

The obvious villain was the surly potions professor, but things are not what they seem in fantasy movies like this, so subsequent events introduce us to other potential villains. Through all of these twists and turns, Harry remained cool and courageous, until victory was his at last.

Despite the movie's length, most of the children in the audience didn't fidget or fret, because the production's "eye candy" effects and eventful developments kept coming one after the other.

One of the times the film's storytelling dipped was when Harry had to play a dangerous game of "wizards' chess," in which giant chess pieces plummeted each other. This scene didn't work because it wasn't made clear who was directing the movements of the "evil" pieces on the giant chessboard.

Most of the time, though, the movie kept things eventful. It also didn't lose sight of the need to make viewers care so much for Harry that they would follow all of his ordeals with complete empathy.

This combination of personalized storytelling and special-effects marvels should make this first "Harry Potter" movie unbeatable at the box office. Additional plus points include deliciously textured performances turned in by acclaimed veteran actors like **Richard Harris** and **Maggie Smith**.

The movie's young cast has a hard time keeping up with these venerable and yet still antic performers, but their youth and vitality carry the day for them.

Of course, young viewers empathize utterly with their magical talents, because kids thrill to acts of pure heroism and fantasize about being as powerful as superheroes.

With Harry Potter showing the way in this and other subsequent movies, young moviegoers have all the incentive they need to fly high, on wings of cinematic wizardly.

Tribute to Nida

FROM Monday to Friday at 1 p.m. until Nov. 30, RPN-9 is showing some of the best episodes of the "John and Marsha" sitcom, starring **Dolphy** and **Nida Blanca**. The channel's tribute to Nida is a good opportunity for more mature viewers to reminisce about the good, old days, and for young TV buffs to get to know the lovable Puruntong family.

Fifth Gospel has been active on the gospel music scene, with several recordings to its credit, plus performance tours all over the country, including the far-flung areas of Mindoro, Davao, Surigao and Agusan.

On Friday, Nov. 23, at 6 p.m., Fifth Gospel will be featured in a full-length concert of Christian songs, some of which were written by the group's musical director, **J. Nez Marcelo**, and **Raymund C. Mareaida**, who is celebrating his birthday on the day of the concert. The show will be held at the Amphitheater of De La Salle University on Taft Ave. Happy birthday, Raymund!

Third Big Dome . . .

(From page A29)

Freestyle in 1997, after jamming with the group occasionally. He is a business management graduate who majored in human resources at the College of St. Benilde.

"I was working for my family's import-export business but I would find time to jam with the group in the studio," Top says. "I was a member of another group with Gerald, Main Street, which we formed earlier when we were in La Salle Cavite. Eventually, Freestyle invited me to join them in mid-1997."

Top joined Freestyle with **Carlo Tapia** (on bass) after two members left the group. **Nikki Cabardo** replaced Obet Luzon on keyboards and became the sixth member of the band.

Top is the music whiz in the group and penned 12 out of the 13 cuts in Freestyle's first album, which they recorded in Davao. Viva Records later released the album.

Today, Freestyle is one of the few bands enjoying success not only in the live concert scene but also in recording. It has performed in packed big concert venues.

In October 2000, Freestyle conquered Araneta Coliseum, where they did a concert with **Pops Fernandez, Gary Valenciano** and **Andrew E.**

Last February, Freestyle went up the Big Dome stage again during their successful Valentine "Love Concert" with **Zsa Zsa Padilla** and **Lani Misalucha.**

The group repeated their Araneta feat when they performed with **Ogie Alcasid** and **Aiza Seguerra** last August.

"We didn't think we were ready for our first Araneta concert," Top says. "But we were very fortunate to have the support of so many fans who filled up Araneta. Not all bands can do that."

On Nov. 24, Freestyle will perform again at the Big Dome, this time with the 85-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO), in "Symphony in F."

"This is a different show because it will be the first time we will perform with an orchestra," Top says.

Top admits they still worry if they could fill up the huge place.

"We get nervous every time we go up that stage," Top says. "We just hope for the best and do our best when the lights go on. We also hope all our supporters will be there (again)."

The two-hour concert, presented by Mossimo on its third anniversary, will fuse the sound of the 85-piece MPO with the sound of Freestyle.

Their guests are young divas **Anna Fegi** and **Bituin Escalante.**

Mossimo will stage a mini-fashion show to officially launch its eyewear line, Mossimo Vision. The fashion show will have a Hollywood theme. Fashion director **Robbie Carmona** will direct.

"Symphony in F" is a production of Renaissance Entertainment Corp. and will be directed for TV by **Rowell Santiago,** with MPO orchestra master **Rodel Colmenar** as musical director and conductor.

Top had a hand in choosing the repertoire for the Araneta concert. Freestyle will perform choice movie themes ("Mission Impossible" and "Live and Let Die"), well-loved standards ("If You Leave Me Now" and "Just as Long as We Have Love"), a selection of acoustic hits ("More Than You'll Ever Know" and "Get Here"), a girl power medley ("I'm Every Woman" and "It's Raining Men").

The group will also dish out pop hits like "Real Thing," "Through the Fire," "Power of Two," "Tattooed on My Mind," "What You Won't Do," "Bootylicious," "Iris," "Superman," "Spell," "Survivor," "Do You Believe in Me," "All Night, All Right" and "Ride With Me."

Freestyle recently came from a successful concert tour of the United States, where they performed in five cities—Washington DC, Chicago, Atlantic City, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

In the local front, the group regularly performs at 8th Day and Hard Rock.

Freestyle dreams of one day having a concert where they will sing only their original songs.

"It will be nice to do a show where we don't have to sing cover versions of pop hits," Top allows. "Our dream is for our songs to be sung by our children's children. That is the best legacy we can leave in the music industry."

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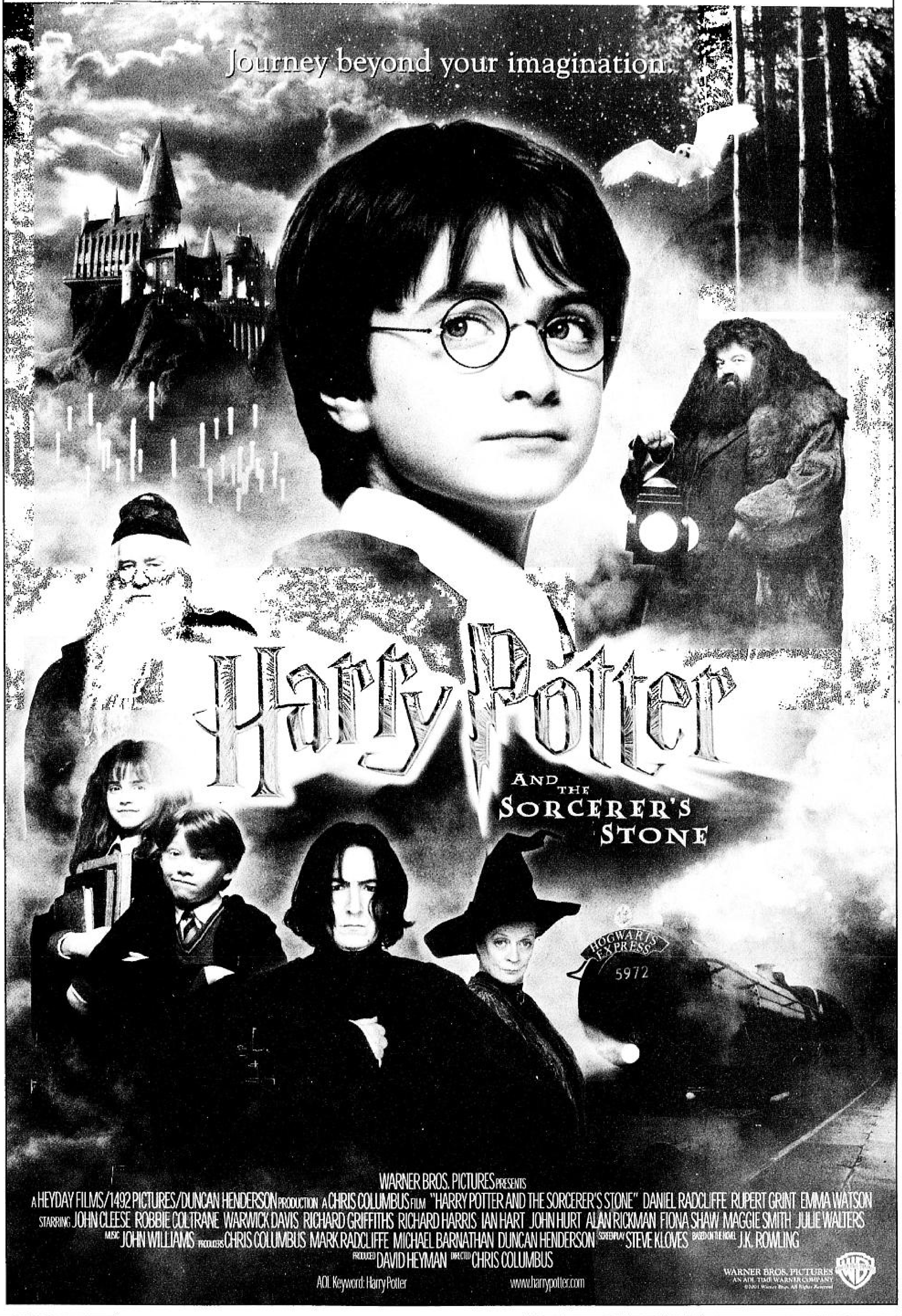

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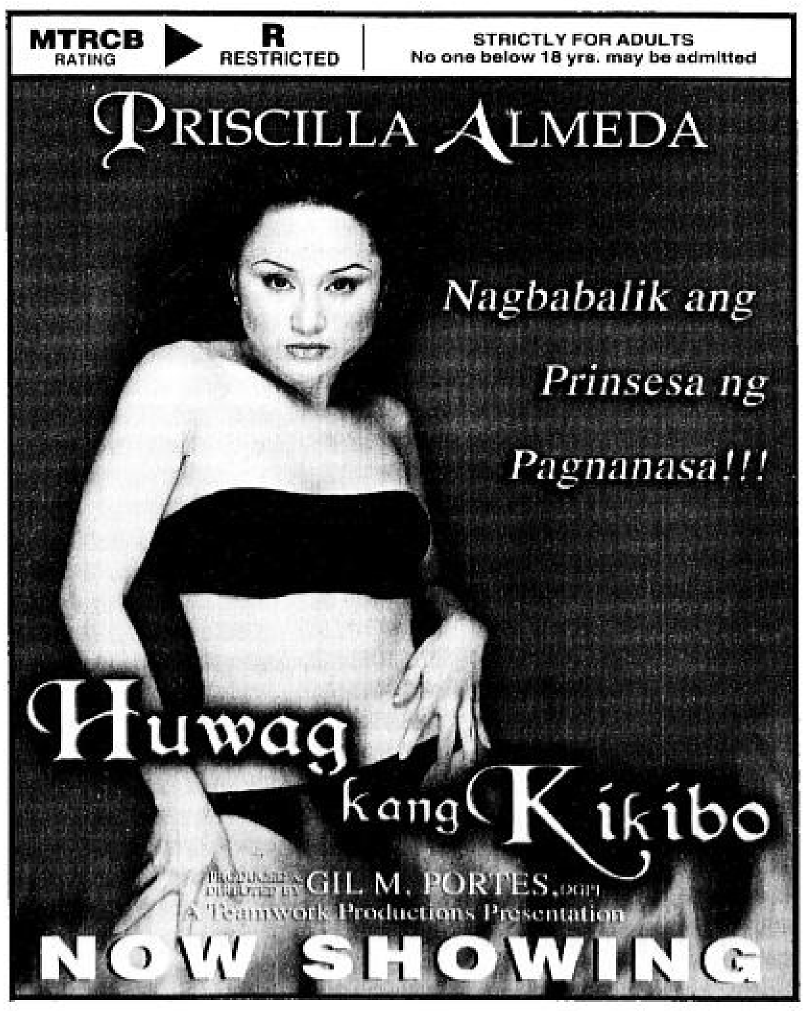
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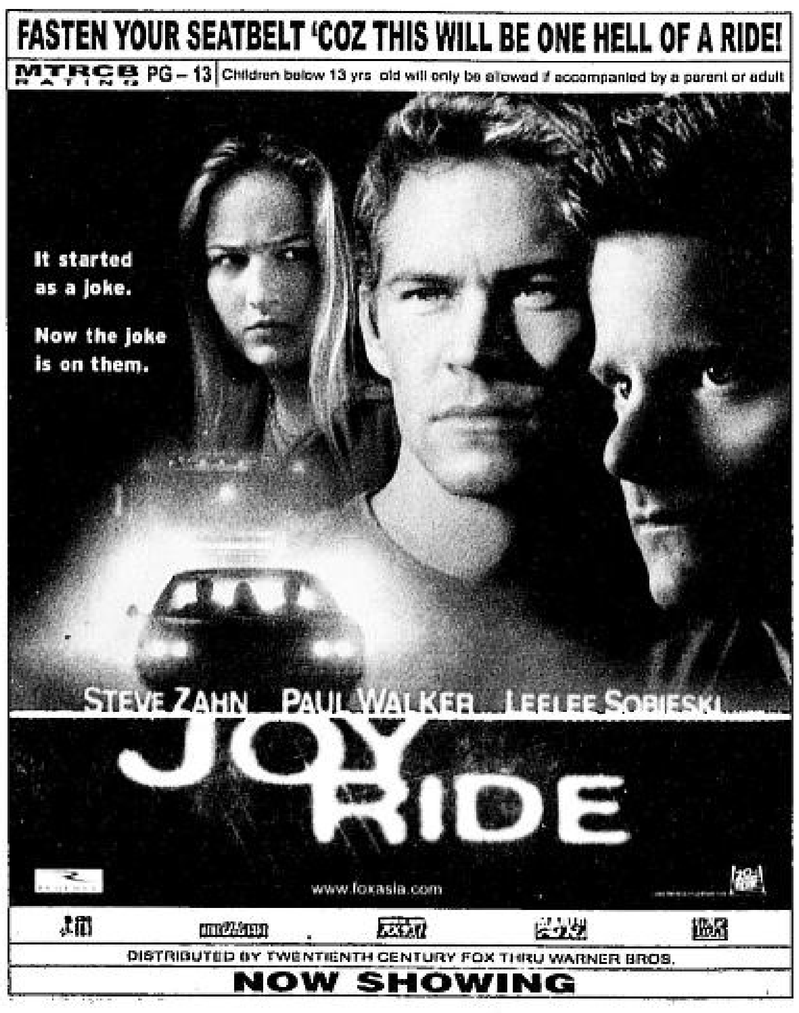
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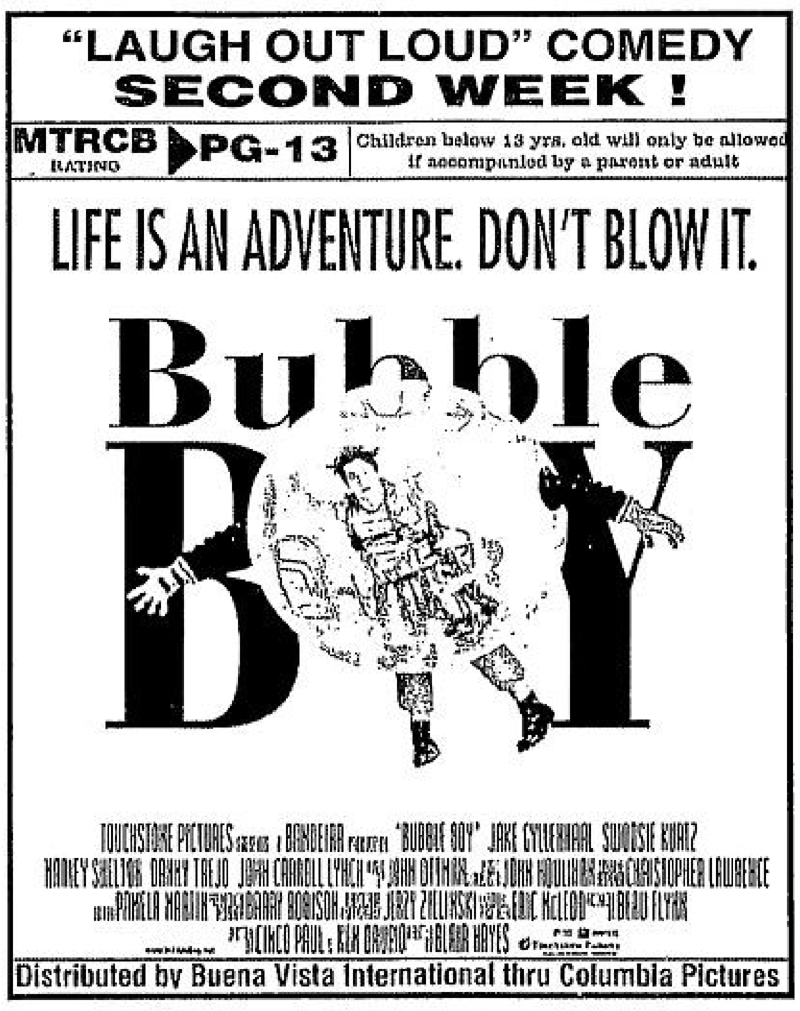
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

What kids and their parents think of 'Harry'

BY PAUL DAZA
Contributor

AS expected, the Muggles showed up in droves.

At the very first Philippine public screening of the highly anticipated movie "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," non-magical folk of all ages trooped to the Premiere THX Cinema (formerly Louie's) in Makati late Saturday afternoon to be bewitched by a boy wizard.

It's been a while since the theater, now used only for special occasions, was filled to capacity. However, the undeniable, boundless appeal of a student wizard named Harry ensured that every seat would be occupied, while more would have to be added to accommodate his fans.

The audience was remarkably well-behaved. Sure, distracting back lights from cell phones would sometimes compete with the light from the silver screen, and there would occasionally be loud whispers from kids who just had to explain to their seatmates what was happening onscreen.

As a whole, however, the screening was wonderful. Harry Potter's beguiling adventures were more than enough to keep normally fidgety children enthralled in their seats.

Will Harry work his magic on your family? Does the movie's success depend on your having read the book?

Here's an informal exit poll we conducted on a few children and their grown-up companions Saturday night.

Scary, violent

"The movie is full of action and the invisibility cloak is so nice. The part where a guy turned to sand is very scary and violent. It is funny when the headmaster eats the Every Flavored Beans and he tastes earwax." **Andrew I. Santos, 9 years old**

(Andrew came to the screening dressed exactly like Harry Potter on a typical school day, in a black Hogwarts robe with the necktie tucked smartly inside a vest.)

"I like the movie because it is funny and scary. I closed my eyes in the part when Harry opened a book that had a screaming face in it. I liked the Every Flavored Beans and the part where Harry opened the box with the Chocolate Frog and it jumped away. The book and the movie are the same, but I missed Hermione's potions and logic class in the movie." **Monique I. Santos, 8**

(Monique is Andrew's sister, and she came dressed as Harry's bookish friend Hermione.)

Friendship

"My husband is the one who read the books, and he's the reason I got into the movie. The movie's really nice, but there are parts that are scary for an eight-year-old. But it's good that the three kids succeed in the end. I like the friendship that develops between Harry, Ron and Hermione. Their bond is what helps them succeed." ***Angelica Santos, 35, mother of Monique and Andrew.***

"The movie isn't just for *totoys*, it's fit for all ages. I give the movie five stars! Bring on the next movie . . . I can't wait to see more! The Quidditch game is awesome and amazing, and the casting was great! It's a movie that everyone can watch again and again. It didn't feel like two and a half hours at all!" ***Jiggy Cruz, 16***

"I liked the movie because the story is kind of cool. The characters look great. I like the scene where Harry is with the goblins. The goblins are impressive. I haven't read the books, but I'll watch the movie many times." ***Raymond Hernando*, 11**

"It is good, ninety percent accurate based on the book. The movie is long, and if you didn't read the book you might get bored because there is more talk than action in the movie. Because I read the book, I enjoyed the film very much. I'm already looking forward to the next movie." ***Alvin Distrajo*, 24**

Back to childhood

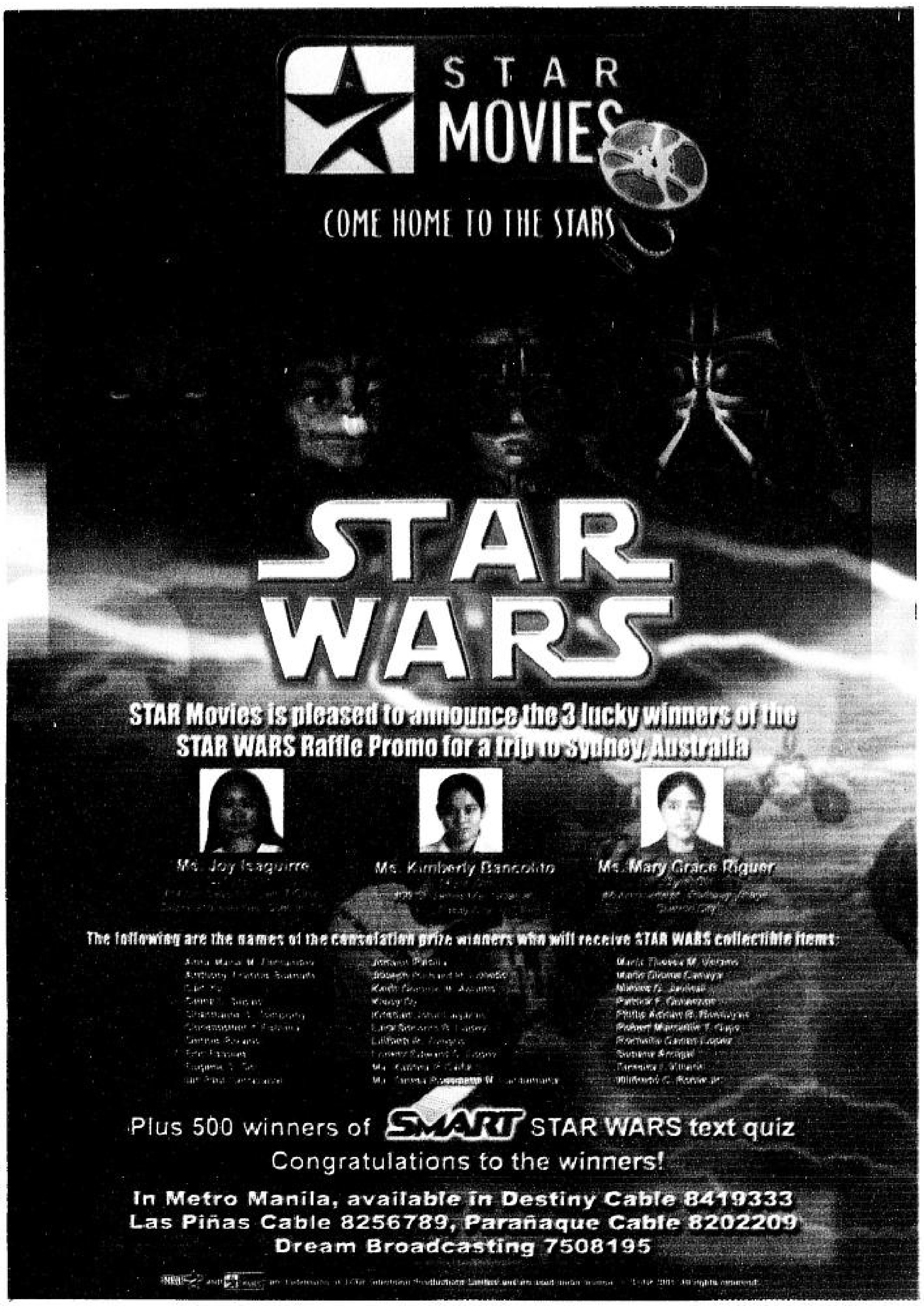
"I didn't read the books, but I like everything about the movie, especially Harry. I want to be like Harry because he's brave." ***Florenz Trinidad*, 7**

"I liked the movie, but it was long. I like Harry because of his courage." ***Florian Trinidad*, 10**

"I enjoyed the movie. *Bumalik kami sa pagkabata.*" ***Babs Trinidad*, 30**

"I liked the special effects. The sorcery elements might be dark for the kids, but the movie tells us that the best kind of sorcery is love. I liked the moving paintings and the chess game. The movie has many of the elements of 'Star Wars' . . . *ang galing*!" ***Chino Trinidad*, 34**

"I'm a fan of the books, especially of Dumbledore and the three lead characters. The three children played their roles well, and the Quidditch game was like the Pod Race in 'Star Wars.' I loved the story of Harry's parents...*naiyak ako sa* Mirror Of Erised." ***Shiles Moncerate*, 30**



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TOGETHER again after eight years are Sharon and Robin.

Sharon forgives Robin and gets a torrid kiss

BY REMY M. UMEREZ
Contributor

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta can also boast of mega-determination and mega-discipline.

Remember how she was able to shed excess pounds when she made a movie opposite Richard Gomez and immediately gained it back when she decided to have a baby?

After two years of full-time motherhood, Sharon faces the cameras again in "Pagdating ng Panahon," seemingly feeling light as a feather, thanks to her determination and discipline. It is her comeback movie for Viva as the outfit celebrates its 20th anniversary. It also marks her third team-up with Robin Padilla, a screen chemistry that has remained powerful even when both stars are married to other partners.

"Pagdating ng Panahon" was originally intended for Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales, but Charlene's pregnancy got in the way.

Viva was toying with the idea of resurrecting the career of Aiza Seguerra, who eventually made a hit of the song "Pagdating ng Panahon." But Aiza decided to go with Mother Lily Monteverde instead of Viva's big boss Vic del Rosario. That's gratitude for Aiza, who as a child appeared in countless Regal movies.

The last film of Sharon and

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Metro Pacific weighs offers on Boni stake

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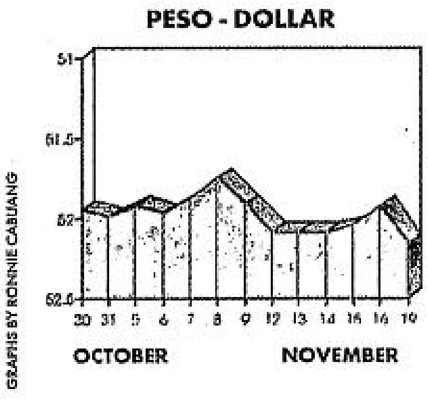

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower

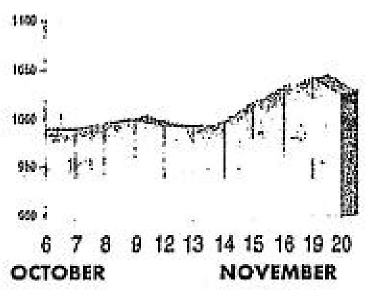
SHARES ended lower yesterday, after a four day run-up, with investors unnerved by an outbreak of fighting between forces loyal to former Muslim rebel chief Nur Misauri and government troops, traders said.

Traders said the fresh violence gave players an excuse to cash in on key large-caps after recent gains.

"There was a bit of profit-taking with investors getting the jitters from the latest conflict," United Coconut Planters Bank Trust fund manager Vanessa Lim said.

STOCKS/ B4

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

METRO Pacific Corp. is taking its time in deciding on offers submitted for its controlling stake in Bonifacio Land Corp., developer of its 150-hectare crown jewel Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Company officials said that while property developer Ayala Land Inc. gave a self-imposed deadline of Nov. 19 on its binding offer, it would not rush into making decisions.

Industry sources said ALI and MPC officials were still on the negotiating table as of yesterday, and unless ALI decides to unilaterally withdraw its offer because of the self-imposed deadline, such negotiations would continue. The sources said MPC wanted ALI to improve its offer.

Aside from ALI, the officials also said that MPC was still considering other proposals. The only other party which has so far disclosed that it had submitted an offer for the stake in BLC was Robinsons Land Corp., the property arm of taipan John Gokongwei.

MPC has yet to announce whether there are other proposals, such as from unlisted companies or groups. However, it is expected to make a decision very soon to raise funds for its maturing obligations.

Company officials also ruled out the possibility of a management buyout of BLC.

"Metro Pacific Corp. would like to make it clear that while the managed sale process of BLC continues, and that bids are presently being considered, MPC has not received any offers relating to a management buyout," a company statement said.

MPC has tapped Dutch investment bank ING Barings to handle the sale of its 69.6-percent stake in BLC.

BLC has a 55-percent stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the joint venture company formed with state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to develop the former Fort Bonifacio military base.

The Salim family of Indonesia, which controls First Pacific, had already given the go-ahead for MPC to sell out of the Fort Bonifacio project.

Once it unloads its stake in Fort Bonifacio, MPC will be left with only First e-Bank, leisure estate developer Landco Pacific and high-rise developer Pacific Plaza Towers in its books.

MPC earlier divested from other non-core businesses: Metro Bottled Water, packaging firm Steniel Manufacturing Corp. and agro-industrial feeds producer Metrovet Inc. It has also sold its stake in mobile phone provider Smart Communications Inc. to its parent company and removed Negros Navigation Co. from its books by issuing its shares in the shipping firm as dividends to MPC shareholders.

HSBC sees stable peso, stronger dollar inflow in 2001

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

HSBC Corp. is projecting a stable peso and a stronger inflow of foreign portfolio investments next year in anticipation of a recovery in exports by the second half of 2002.

HSBC treasurer John McGowan said the peso would likely settle between the high 51 and the low 52 to a dollar this year. McGowan said this trend would probably be maintained next year.

The peso yesterday closed at 52.07 from 52.16 to a dollar last Monday when the exchange rate reacted to the uprising of outgoing ARMM Governor Nur Misuari.

The HSBC treasurer said that with interest differential between the US and local rates hitting an all-time high on several maturities, the inflow to the fixed-income as well as the equities markets should improve significantly next year.

With a more stable political climate, McGowan said the country should see more overseas investors putting their "hot money" in the local markets. Currently, he said the bulk of the modest portfolio funds were parked in fixed-income instruments like treasury bills, bonds and dollar-denominated sovereign papers.

"There should be a recovery in portfolio investments and even the stock market may get a kick from the recent rally in Wall Street," the HSBC official said.

As of October, the level of portfolio inflow stood at $1.09 billion, although this was 56-percent less than last year's level. Total outflow, however, remained substantial at $1.046 billion during the first 10 months.

A stronger portfolio inflow should also help stabilize the local currency, which is getting a boost from the increased inflow of dollar remittance with the onset of the Christmas season.

"There is nothing in the horizon that would make the peso move dramatically. From now until year's end, the push and pull factors would be the dollar remittance against a dollar that is getting stronger," McGowan said.

The treasurer said the problems with the local peace-and-order remained one of the biggest factors discouraging investments in the Philippines and the Macapagal administration must address the issue to boost investor confidence in the local market.

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CALLING ALL U.P. LAWYERS:

Our Grand Reunion will be held on Friday, 23 November 2001, at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La. Registration starts at 6:30 p.m. The Hon. Franklin M. Drilon (Class '69), President of the Senate, will be the Keynote Speaker. This year's hosts are the Silver Jubilarians, Class '76, together with the other celebrating classes: 1941 Diamond, 1946 Emerald, 1951 Gold, 1956 Sapphire, 1961 Ruby, 1966 Coral, 1971 Pearl, 1981 China, 1986 Crystal, 1991 Tin and 1996 Wood.

For further information, call your Class Representative or contact the Secretariat.

VICTORIA C. DE LOS REYES
President

Dutch publisher taps SPI Technologies

By Doris C. Dumlao

CALAMBA, Laguna—Dutch publishing giant Elsevier Science has given its vote of confidence on the capability of the Philippine information technology labor sector to compete in the global IT service outsourcing marketplace.

Top officials of Amsterdam-based Elsevier Science, which handpicked local IT service provider SPI Technologies Inc. to build the world's biggest repository of scientific information on the Internet, arrived in the country for the launching of the commercial operations of Content Sciences Inc. (CSI) on Monday.

CSI, which operates in the Camelray Industrial Park II here, is a subsidiary created by SPI to handle the archival resources of Elsevier Science, the world's leading publisher of scientific, technical and medical journals. CSI has so far hired almost 1,000 IT workers and its workforce is expected to further expand by 1,500 before the year ends.

In a press briefing, Elsevier Science chair Derk Haank, who estimated the Dutch company's investments in the project at "tens of millions of dollars but less than $100 million," said the contract with SPI covered about 5 million articles, some of which date back to 1829 when the first editions were published.

"We are using many suppliers worldwide but we have to select a supplier for this one and we chose SPI for this mammoth task of dealing with the past. That's a complement to what they've been doing so far," Haank said.

CSI will, in effect, handle the electronic conversion of 25 percent of back issues published by Elsevier Science worldwide.

"This is bigger than any other project we've ever undertaken and we are convinced that SPI has the best facilities to do this," he noted.

"Apart from that, SPI will continue to deliver other services, like editing forthcoming articles so not only is SPI is helping us going forward. It is helping us go back to the beginning of our publishing," he said.

CSI, which is accredited by the Philippine Export Processing Zone Authority, leases a 24,000-square meter facility and has committed to finish the conversion of 30 to 40 million pages of Elsevier Science's journals within four years.

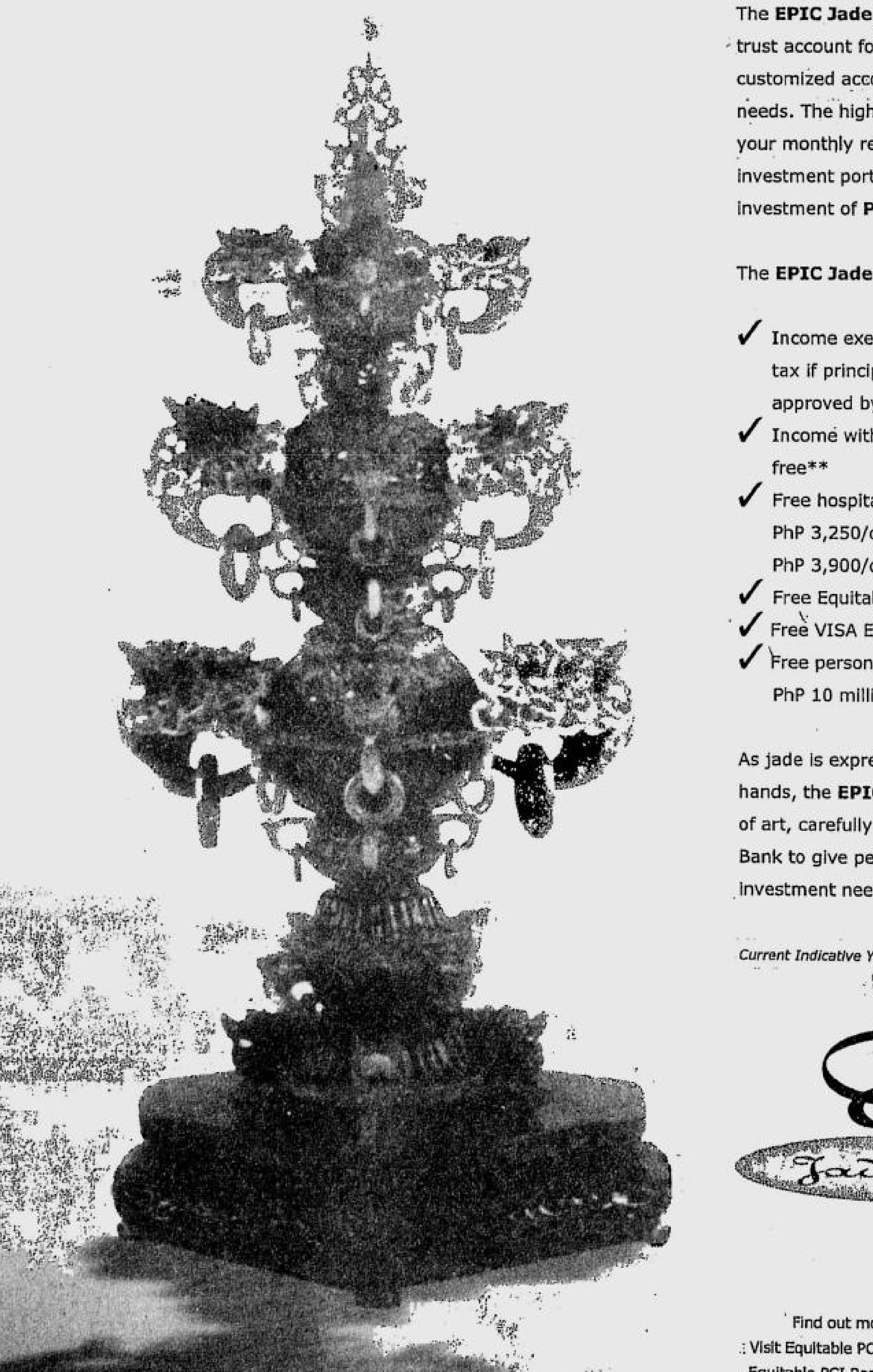
Elsevier Science director for global supplier management Lee Pierce said: "I'd say we're a strong believer in the capability of Philippine companies to provide global services certainly to the publishing industry and I think the English language skills, the technical skills and close attention to detail are the characteristics that give the Philippines a great opportunity to grow in this area."

This is consistent with expectations by stock market analysts that IT labor is one area that could generate a lot of windfall for the Philippines as more companies in the United States and Europe, grappling with rising production costs, decide to outsource services from developing countries.

The project with CSI seeks to expand the collection of journals offered by Elsevier Science on its electronic service Science Direct, which allows users to access backfiles of leading titles.

"We are eager to see the realization of our expansion project. Our task is to provide the research community with the electronic files of as much of our content as possible," Haank said.

For his part, SPI president and CEO Ernest Cu said: "This project marks the strength of our long-term relationship with Elsevier Science and confirms the reliability and capability of SPI in large-scale endeavors. CSI is one of the reasons that will boost SPI's growth in the coming year."



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RP, Japan near deal on funding of power project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co.'s subsidiary Energy Development Corp. and the Japan Bank of International Cooperation last Friday signed the minutes of discussion on the state-firm's 40-megawatt wind power project.

PNOC-EDC president Sergio Apostol said yesterday in a statement the signing paved the way for possible financing of the estimated $64.7-million (P3.4-billion) project.

"The country's first commercial wind farm, which would be constructed in Ilocos Norte, would probably be covered by a special yen loan package," Apostol said.

The former Leyte congressman explained that JBIC had sent a four-member appraisal team to do a field survey and study the feasibility of the project.

"PNOC-EDC now awaits the loan pledging in January, which would signify the commitment from the Japanese government to extend financing," he said.

Apostol added that should JBIC approve the loan, PNOC-EDC may receive funding of up to 85 percent of the total estimated project cost or $55 million (P2.9 billion).

The wind farm project also includes a 42-kilometer, 230-kilovolt transmission line from Burgos town—where the facility would be put up—to the National Power Corp. substation in Laoag City.

The Burgos project is the first of three phases of a 120-mw wind power complex that would be directly connected to Napocor's main grid.

"Last month, JBIC has included the wind farm in a shortlist of eight projects for possible funding," Apostol said.

He noted that the Burgos wind farm would not only be the first in the country, but also in Southeast Asia.

In an earlier interview, Apostol said the Ilocos wind farm would be the foothold of wind energy projects in the country, with Central Luzon as the area for succeeding initiatives.

He also pointed at the possibility of setting up wind power facilities in the country's Eastern seaboard, which may prove promising due to the strong winds coming from the Pacific Ocean.

The US National Renewable Energy Laboratory reported in a 1999 wind mapping survey that the Philippines' wind power potential went as high as 70,000 mw, about seven times the country's present total power demand.

Mine firms push 5 major ventures

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE LOCAL mining industry is targeting to develop at least five world-class mining projects that could generate $5 billion in revenues.

The Chamber of Mines, which groups local mining firms, and the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences are looking at these projects to boost the local mining industry.

These ventures include the Tampacan mining project of Western Mining Corp., the Kingking copper-gold project of Benguet Mining, the Buyungan mine of Philex Mining, the Far Southeast copper mining project of Lepanto Consolidated Mining, and the Pujada and Broxpoint nickel mining project of Philippine Nickel Mining Corp.

These projects would place the Philippines at par with the other metal and non-metal producing and exporting countries such as India and Africa, according to Artemio F. Disini, chief executive of Lepanto Mining and president of the Chamber of Mines.

However, the lack of government support and prevailing anti-mining sentiments have trimmed the industry's potential over the last 40 years.

According to the chamber's vice president, Patrick Caoile, mining only contributed less than 10 percent to the country's export earnings as compared to 20-25 percent some 20 years ago.

"Even at its current state now, the mining industry still contributes $600 million to $650 million in revenues to the government, so imagine if we could push this a little bit further," said Caoile, who is also the general manager and executive vice president of Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.

"We hope we could at least be part of the national agenda and have a representative or a presidential adviser on mining," Caoile added.

Disini admitted that the pending case questioning the Philippine Mining Law, which is languishing in the Supreme Court, had disappointed foreign investors.

Foreign investors have stayed away from the local mining industry as the Supreme Court has yet to decide on the constitutionality of the Philippine Mining Law, which had been questioned by non-government organizations.

The complaint specifically questioned the constitutionality of the law's provision allowing 100-percent foreign ownership of local mining projects.

The Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) contained in the 1995 Philippine Mining Law allows a foreign firm to own up to 100 percent of a mining company provided its investment must involve between $25 million and $100 million.

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

Imperial Cebuano

DESPITE the warnings of Napocor that the cost of the delay, now running in the billions, would not mitigate whatever imagined savings, Malacañang is still pushing for the re-bidding of the Leyte-Cebu submarine power cable project.

The $53-million (about P2.8-billion) project, approved by the Asian Development Bank for funding in December 1997, was originally scheduled to be finished by this yearend.

Now it is back to square one.

The delay has been costing the government about P7.77 billion a year in losses, including the P1.8 million/month in commitment fees just to keep the untapped ADB loan current, according to Jesus Alcordo, National Power Corp. president.

After years of being caught in the proverbial red tape, the Erap-era Napocor finally held in May 2000 the international bidding for the installation of two submarine cables, designed to transmit excess, unused, but already paid-for 200 mw of geothermal power in Leyte to power-hungry Cebu.

Despite having submitted the second lowest bid, Sumitomo has been deemed by Napocor after considering other technical/financial factors as having submitted the "lowest evaluated bid" over that of lowest bidder Alcatel and four other bidders.

The Napocor board subsequently recommended the award to the Japanese supplier on Jan. 8, 2001, an award concurred in by Neda and ADB.

But with Edsa II and the protest of Alcatel, the new Neda, chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo, chose to ignore the Napocor staff recommendation and proceeded to uphold the recommendation of Neda's Ruben Reinoso Jr. for a new bidding based on the original three-cable configuration.

Reinoso, whose rank is a director, effectively undercut his boss, Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla, who as acting Neda director general, earlier gave his concurrence on the validity of the Napocor bidding.

Sumitomo, naturally, is aghast over this latest Philippine government flip-flop, and has made known its sentiments to the Japanese-dominated ADB.

Other than the rebidding and loan extension requiring another concurrence of the ADB, Sumitomo is also banking on the fact that Napocor and Neda had pre-cleared the May 2000 bidding rules with the ADB power sector executives.

The irony of the whole exercise is that this time, it is not "Imperial Manila" that is making this expensive imposition over Cebu but, according to the Napocor grapevine, an imperial Cebuano who has prevailed on Malacañang, in payment of past political debts, for the re-bidding.

The Cebuano, a perennial loser in his quest for national office, has not made a secret to Napocor officials his preference for a losing bidder, according to the grapevine.

The Napocor officials, in the meantime, are caught between the devil and the deep blue sea.

Now that they have no choice but to follow the new Malacañang order, the resident Napocor Ombudsman, Christopher Saguillon, has recommended their prosecution for the multibillion-peso delays.

The new bidding is expected to add another year of delay, amid a prediction of brownouts again plaguing Cebu by 2003, on the eve of presidential elections.

Tessie's forked tongue

SEN. Tessie Aquino-Oreta was fulminating the other day in the Senate over the "frequent" foreign trips of President Macapagal-Arroyo and for her "drag(ging) the leaders of Congress" for the US visit amid these trying times.

Delivering a privilege speech prior to a failed power grab, the Dancing Queen likened the nation to a pilotless ship as she asked her remaining colleagues to declare all Senate positions vacant.

Oreta enumerated all the recent GMA foreign travels but strangely forgot to include the Japan visit in her list.

What Oreta did not say in her righteous indignation is that she and her husband were part of the official GMA entourage in Tokyo.

Heard through the grapevine

THE YUCHENGCOS may be suing PLDT president and fellow board member Manuel V. Pangilinan for the rescission of the PLDT sale to the First Pacific Group but that does not prevent the family from bidding for more business from the telephone company the Yuchengcos once controlled.

Now we understand the Yuchengcos are eyeing PLDT's property along Reposo Street in Makati as possible branch campus for the family-controlled Mapua Institute of Technology.

Located across the Yuchengco's old RCBC headquarters on Buendia, the Reposo lot adjoins the South Cemetery, and was thus deemed unsuitable for even a medium-rise development considering that the proposed occupants would not want to see rows of graves and squatters for their window view.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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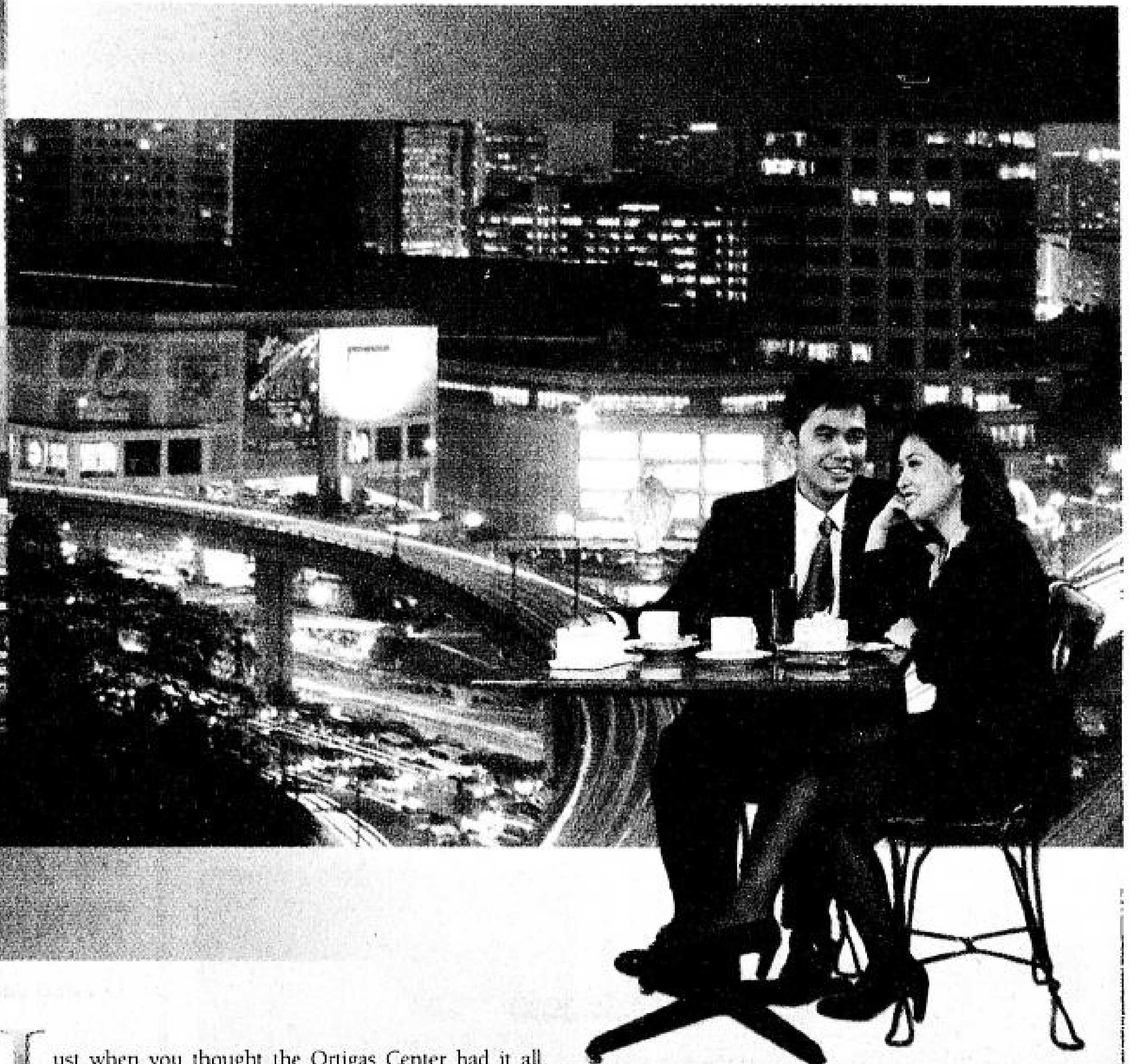

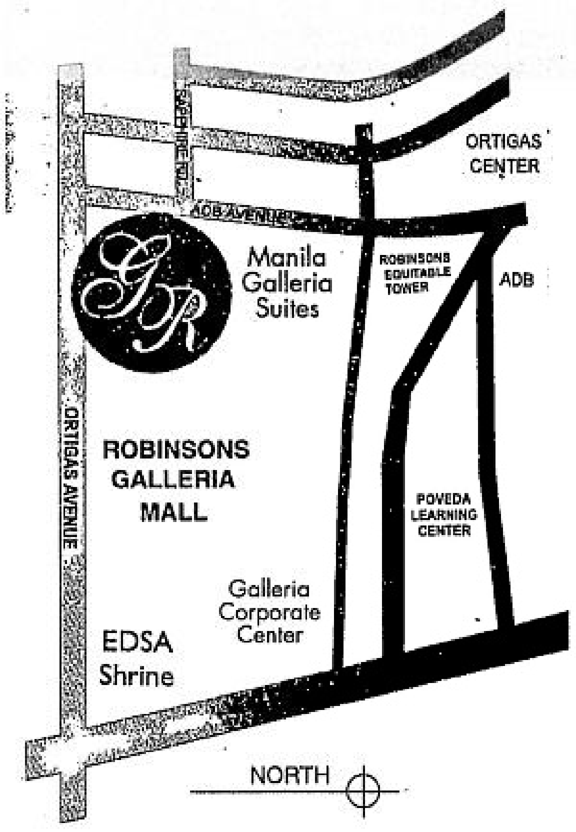

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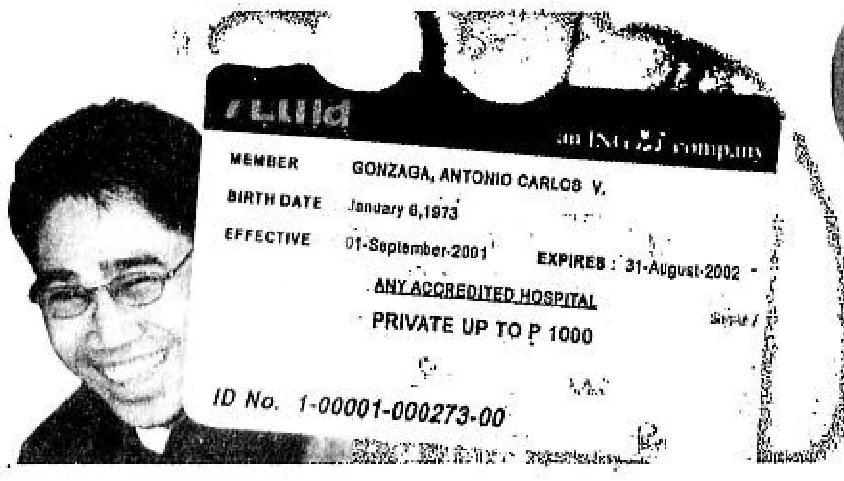

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ICTSI profit surges to ₱180M

By Elena R. Torrijos

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. reported a fourfold increase in net income in the third quarter to P180 million from P43.9 million during the same period last year.

It said gross revenue during the quarter rose 6 percent to P1.11 billion from P1.05 billion on the back of the strong performance of its Bauan International Port Inc. in Batangas.

Group-wide, ICTSI's container volume rose 3 percent to 283,315 twenty-foot equivalent units from last year's comparative level of 276,083 TEUs.

Volume at the Manila International Container Terminal dipped 238,118 TEUs or 2 percent lower than 242,588 TEUs last year.

However, the Bauan port handled 130,675 metric tons, up 56 percent from the 83,557 tons that passed through it last year.

South Cotabato Integrated Port Services Inc. saw its volume rise 6 percent to 35,620 TEUs from 33,494 TEUs while Subic Bay International Terminal Corp., which started operations in August last year, managed 9,578 TEUs.

ICTSI said its consolidated net income for the third quarter increased because of the restatement of the company's dollar-denominated borrowings following the appreciation of the peso against the greenback to 51.348 or better than the end-June exchange level of 52.428 to a dollar.

For the first nine months of this year, ICTSI's net income soared to P3.28 billion from P59.44 million during the same period last year mainly as a result of the one-time gain from the sale of ICTSI International Holdings Corp., the holding company for overseas port operations, and Ensenada Cruiseport Village to Hutchison Ports Holdings of Hong Kong last June.

For comparative purposes, IIHC was deconsolidated in ICTSI's financial statements ending Sept. 30 last year.

ETPI, PBCom Tower sign IT agreement

By Abigail L. Ho

EASTERN Telecommunications Philippines Inc. has signed an agreement with PBCom Tower to provide it with fiber-optic connectivity, adding to the building's list of high-technology facilities.

Under the agreement, tenants of the tower, mostly information technology (IT) and multinational companies, would gain access to high bandwidth critical to their operations.

"This new facility allows our tenants end-to-end fiber-optic connectivity from their office in the building up to their distant foreign node. Telecommunications is critical to their operations and most of them demand no less than high bandwidth and fiber-optic access," PBCom president and chief executive Isidro Alcantara Jr. said.

ETPI chair Richard Freyer added that the PBCom Tower would be one of the company's major nodes in the Metropolitan Area Network, spanning key business districts in Makati, Ortigas and Manila.

As part of this node, he said tenants of the building would be able to enjoy high-speed access to the Internet, frame relay, integrated services digital network (ISDN), virtual private network (VPN) access, voice-over-Internet protocol (VoIP), video conferencing and video streaming.

They would also be able to have instant access to a gigabit Ethernet connection for rapid and cost-effective connection to the Internet and other data services. ETPI could also offer full telephone services to the building's tenants, Freyer said.

"ETPI is pleased to be chosen as the provider of fiber-optic connectivity in one of the most prestigious addresses in Makati," he added.

Both Alcantara and Freyer said the state-of-the-art IT facilities of the building would help President Macapagal-Arroyo achieve her thrust of turning the country into a center of information and communication technology in the region.

The PBCom Tower along Ayala Avenue is nearly 60 stories high. It is one of the newest and most modern buildings in the Makati central business district.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority has also classified the tower as an IT Park. With this classification, tenants of the building are entitled to special incentives like income tax holidays and duty-free importation.

The PBCom Tower is jointly owned by Philippine Bank of Communications and Filinvest Asia Corp.

ETPI is a leading provider of data and Internet services in the country. It has one of the largest connectivities to the global Internet at 100 mbps.

CURRENCIES

Nov. 19, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.137656	1.000000	52.0460
Japan	Yen	0.009232	0.008115	0.4224
United Kingdom	Pound	1.606371	1.412000	73.4890
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146041	0.128370	6.6811
Switzerland	Franc	0.685582	0.602627	31.3643
Canada	Dollar	0.716273	0.629604	32.7684
Singapore	Dollar	0.618124	0.543331	28.2782
Australia	Dollar	0.592529	0.520833	27.1073
Bahrain	Dinar	3.017817	2.652661	138.0604
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303375	0.266667	13.8790
Brunei	Dollar	0.618224	0.543419	28.2828
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000095	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025582	0.022487	1.1704
UAE	Dirham	0.309819	0.272331	14.1737
Korea	Won	0.000893	0.000785	0.0409
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.879000	45.7484
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.449426	23.3908
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134003	6.9743
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.398873	20.7597
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.063879	3.3246
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021790	1.1341
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000454	0.0236
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.147837	7.6943
Portugal	Escudo	0.004987	0.004384	0.2282
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005283	0.2750
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.02179	1.1341
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.1161	58.0885

Ford firms up $1.2-B Asean vehicle project

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IT'S all systems go for Ford Motor Co.'s $1.2-billion production sharing agreement between the American carmaker's subsidiaries in the Philippines and Thailand under the Asean Industrial Cooperation (Aico) scheme.

In a statement, Ford Motor Co. vice chair W. Wayne Booker said the Aico project was clearly a win-win-win situation for all and it proves that both governments share Ford's belief that regional integration and trade liberalization will bring vast benefits to the automotive industries in each nation.

Booker yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Washington formalizing Ford's plan to become the first volume exporter of vehicles from the Philippines.

Under the Ford Aico project, the American carmaker will produce Ford Laser sedan and Escape sport utility vehicle in the Philippines while churning out Ford Ranger pickup trucks from Thailand. Ford Thailand is currently the biggest pickup truck factory of Ford in the region. Ford Philippines is expected to ship out 65,000 vehicles to Thailand and Indonesia over the next five years.

Booker said the project would allow Ford to rationalize its manufacturing operations in Thailand and the Philippines, which currently assembles the same model of cars and trucks.

Ford would benefit from preferred duties of zero to 5 percent under Aico as well as achieve economies of scale and plant specialization compared to the prevailing duties of 20 percent and 15 percent on completely built up units in the Philippines and Thailand, respectively.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, November 20, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	47	46	46.5	490,800
China Banking Corp.	500	500	500	500	31,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18.75	18.75	17.75	18	85,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	169	170	164	166	108,800
Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	47	47.5	244,000
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	3,700
Security Bank Corp.	16.5	16.5	15.75	16	90,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	14.25	14.25	13	13	298,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.9	0.93	0.9	0.9	250,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	220	240	220	240	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	1410	1420	1410	1420	2,070
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1140	1150	1140	1150	6,360
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.75	24	23.75	24	4,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	1,290,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	580	580	580	580	1,110
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	5,000,000
Piltel	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	280,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	380	382.5	377.5	382.5	86,540
Ivantage Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	60,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.016	0.017	98,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22	22	22	22	500
Manila Electric Co. B	27	27	25.5	26	1,509,900
Petron Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.14	1.14	9,921,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.38	1.38	1.32	1.32	2,400,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.25	0.3	0.215	0.28	4,900,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	100,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	1,501,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	60,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	10.75	10.75	486,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	30,500
RFM Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.78	1.82	3,212,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	41	40.5	41	158,300
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	51.5	51	51	201,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.2	4.25	618,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	9,501,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	22,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.5	6,530,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	700,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	170,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	23	22.75	23	59,600
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	50,000
Ionics Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.3	91,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	110,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.56	1,430,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.23	0.235	0.22	0.23	7,530,000
Music Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.3	0.31	2,870,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.7	21,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHERS					
Belle Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	390,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.75	24	23.75	23.75	129,600
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	21,200
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	560	560	560	560	60
Jollibee Warrants	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	9,600
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	8,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	2,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.0046	0.0048	87,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.65	4.65	4.55	4.55	15,780,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,900,000
Cyber Bay Corporation	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.34	1.28	1.3	34,547,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.4	5.6	11,504,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	5,200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	100,000
OIL					
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,900,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,612,630	85,744,200.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	279,250,210	194,811,355.00
PRO	65,131,000	183,117,350.00
Mining	5,500,000	148,100.00
OIL	1,900,000	22,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	353,393,840	463,843,805.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	403.56	DOWN 6.17
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,441.03	DOWN 20.69
PRO	447.88	DOWN 12.25
Mining	947.57	UP 8.80
OIL	1.25	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	685.75	UP 4.50
Composite	1,025.47	DOWN 16.55

NO. OF ADVANCES: 8; NO. OF DECLINES: 47; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84; NO. OF TRADES: 2,266

DISCLOSURES

SPI Technologies Inc. formally launched the commercial operation of its subsidiary, **Content Services Inc.**, which will convert into electronic files the journals of publisher **Elsevier Science.**

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought 4,000 of its shares at P7.50 per share.

* * *

MATSUSHITA Electric Philippines Corp. declared a P0.20 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of Dec. 5 and shall be payable on Dec. 18.

* * *

MEGAWORLD Corp. clarified that the joint venture company it formed with Globus Asia, **Megaworld Globus Asia Inc.**, sought a temporary restraining order with the Court of Appeals in relation to a decision by **Construction and Arbitration Commission** for **DSM Construction and Development Corp.** be paid the amount of P62.8 million. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Stocks end lower

(From page B1)

The main composite index closed down 16.55 points, or 1.59 percent at 1,025.47.

Turnover rose slightly to P464.01 million from P419.23 million on Monday.

"The market has rallied for the past few days and the events down south really brought down the market," DA Market Securities chair Nestor Aguila said, adding if the situation worsened the main index could test support marks of 1,020 and 1,000 points over coming days.

Lim said she also saw further downside if the conflict continued, although there was potential for a quick rebound as well.

"Hopefully we could test 1,100 points (on the main index) if the situation improves and 1,100 to 1,200 is possible by the end of the year, although that will depend on improved liquidity," she said. *Reuters*

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- UST, Dapitan St.
Adams Tech. Supply (MIT)
Goodwill Bookstore (Quiapo)
Merriam & Webster
- C.M. Recto
- Taft (in front of PGH)
Mapua Institute (Muralla St. Intramuros)
MCTM Trading (2nd Floor Harrison Plaza)
SM Manila
- ANAHEIM Power Telecom
- ULB INT'L
www.pro_gamer.com (Gov. Forbes, Sampaloc)
SAN JUAN:
Hello World Mktg. (Virra Mall)
Ralph's Wine & Spirit (Wilson st. Greenhills)
CALOOCAN:
I-MART
- Samson Rd.
- EDSA, Monumento
- Edsa Ext. cor. Loreto
Hello World Mktg.
VALENZUELA:
10Q Convenience Store (Malanday)
QUEZON CITY:
SEA-OIL
- Amoranto
- P. Tuazon
- E. Rodriguez
- Mindanao Ave.
- Quirino Hiway
I-MART
- Lagro
- Novaliches
- Shorthorn
- Banawe
- Cubao
BREADWINNER (Diliman)
A&A Convenience Store (Katipunan Ave.)
Compex Intl.
- SM City Fairview
- Carpark SM north Edsa
Mobile Express (Carpark SM North Edsa)
Book Corner Inc.
- Commonwealth Ave.
- Tierra Market Commercial
SM North:
- Electroworld
- ULB Int'l.
- Memo Express
Famous Dry Cleaners
(Cherry Food-A-Rama, Congressional)
CD Romania (FBR Bldg., Katipunan)
Interchange Trading Inc. (Banfer St., Cubao)
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- Sta. Quiteria
- Sangandaan
Tropical Hut Foodmart (Panay Ave.)
Plaza Fair (Cubao)
Expression Stationery (Tandang Sora)
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·Pinatubo
·Cainta
·Montalban
·San Mateo
·Taytay
- Antipolo Church
- Imperial, Antipolo
Sta. Lucia East Grandmall
- Memo Express
- CD Square
Merriam Webster (Antipolo)
Jell Trading (Cainta)
Tropical Hut Dept. Store (Q Plaza)
Mall N' More (Tropical Hut, Taytay)
Prepaid Connection (Cainta)
Line of Sight (Bridgeway Sta Lucia)
TCA (Grand Mall Sta. Lucia East)
PASIG:
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·Caruncho
·Rosario
SEAOIL (Bagong Ilog)
Kameraworld (West Tektite Tower)
Famous Dry Cleaner (Cherry Food-A-Rama)
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Uniwide (Edsa Crossing)
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Kamera World
Festival Mall
- Sm Computer
- Office Warehouse
- Memo Express
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PASAY:
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·Taft
·Libertad
Kameraworld (Senara Square Plaza)
Miriam & Webster (Holiday Plaza, Libertad)
PARAÑAQUE:
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- MO Pick Mart
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- Surecall Telecoms
I-MART
·Redemptorist
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·Sucat
CD Square (SM Sucat)
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DATE / TIME	TITLE OF SEMINAR	PRESENTED BY:
29 November 2001		
11am - 12nn	Product Presentation	Inca Plastics Phils.
3pm - 4pm	Valugard: Total Auto Preservation	Valugard
4pm - 5pm	BusinessOpportunities in the Relaunch of Permatex in the Phils.	Permatex / Timken
30 November 2001		
2pm - 3pm	New Technology Tools & Equipment, Chemical Products & Assembly Systems For Use in the Automotive Industry	Centro-Aire Inc.
4pm - 5pm	Magnetic Treatment of Fuel	Taytan Int'l.
5pm - 6pm	Product Presentation	King Shoes Manufacturing
1 December 2001		
11am - 12nn	Brake Pads & Fuel Injection EFI	Quantum Spares
1pm - 2pm	New POLYGuard Bull Bars Launching	Liftruk Int'l Trading
2pm - 3pm	Universal Tools Presentation	Wiha Far East Company
3pm - 4pm	Defensive Driving Seminar	Nissan Motor Philippines
4pm - 5pm	Eyquem Spark Plugs Presentation	Eascorp Automotive
5pm - 6pm	Uniq Engine Treatment Product Presentation	Bizcom Int'l Corp.
2 December 2001		
3pm - 4pm	Product Presentation	Dayco Automotive Belts
5pm - 6pm	Turbo Stormy Air-Fuel Mixture Technology Demonstration	Bizcom Int'l Corp.

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Gov't lifts dumping duty on Korean plastic resins

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINE government blinked first in its row with South Korea on the imposition of anti-dumping duties against plastic resin imports shipped in by 10 South Korean plastic makers led by chaebols Hyundai and LG group.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino ordered the lifting of an anti-dumping duty that the Department of Trade and Industry imposed on polypropylene resins coming from Korean companies in September last year.

The anti-dumping duty ranging from $10 to $150 per metric ton was on top of the 15 percent regular duty on polypropylene resins. These products are used extensively in making sacks, bags, ropes, furniture, appliance casings and packaging. The dumping duty was supposed to stay for five years and it was expected to affect South Korean firms Hyundai, LG International, Dae Lim, Hanwah, Kolon, Hyundai, SK Global, Jinwon Trading, Sekitoku, Sewon and Hyosung.

Aquino said the lifting of the dumping duty was part of the country's settlement agreement with South Korea that protested this action before the Dispute Settlement Body of the World Trade Organization. The dumping duty was lifted on Oct. 29 or two days before the Oct. 31 deadline demanded by South Korea.

Aquino said that the dumping duty was lifted because it was no longer necessary or warranted.

Also, Aquino cited a study by the Permanent Mission in Geneva which stated that there was no significant increase in the volume of dumped imports both in absolute terms and relative to domestic consumption; dumped imports accounted for less than 5 percent of domestic consumption of these products; there was no evidence of price undercutting; and domestic players were selling below cost to boost market share.

When it imposed the anti-dumping duty last year, the DTI noted that the South Korean companies have accounted for 38 percent of the total polypropylene imports of the country since 1998. They were also found to have been selling polypropylene at an average discount of $111 per metric ton compared to their retail prices in South Korea.

JG Petrochemical Corp. of taipan John Gokongwei and Petrochemical Corp. of Asia and Pacific (Petrocorp) filed the anti-dumping case last year charging the South Korean firms of selling petrochemical products at dumped prices in late 1998 when the two companies were just starting operations.

Aside from dumping, the South Korean firms were also charged of undervaluation and misclassification of their exports to the Philippines. Polymers (such as homopolymers), which have a higher tariff rate of 15 percent, were being declared as copolymers that are charged with only 3-percent duty.

NOTICE

All stockholders of Interport Resources Corporation as of record date on October 11, 2001 are notified of the annual stockholders' meeting of the Corporation on December 10, 2001 at 10:00 a.m., to be held at the Metropolitan Club, Inc., Estrella Street corner Amapola Street, Makati City.

The meeting will consider the following matters:

1. Call to Order
2. Election of Directors
3. Appointment of External Auditors
4. Other Matters
5. Adjournment

All stockholders of record as of October 11, 2001 are entitled to attend by person or by proxy and to vote at the meeting. Registration for the meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. Duly signed and accomplished proxy forms may be submitted to T& M Holdings, Inc. (Attention: Esperanza M. Dela Cruz) at the 35th Floor, Rufino Pacific Tower, 6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, on or before November 23, 2001. In compliance with Securities and Exchange Commission Order dated September 11, 2001, the validation of proxies will be done by the transfer agent, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation – Stock Transfer, on December 7, 2001.

Prices of goods remain high in S. Luzon

PRICES of basic commodities and transport fares in Southern Tagalog provinces—particularly in Laguna, Batangas and Cavite—are still high despite recent rollbacks of oil prices, a Department of Trade and Industry official said.

Mena Alea, DTI Southern Tagalog development specialist, told the INQUIRER that the prices of basic commodities such as rice, meat, fish and other food products remained high even though oil traders have lowered their products for several times in the past few months.

"We have noticed that the rollbacks had no impact on the lives of the consumers. Even transport fares remained the same. Commuters are still being charged the same amounts by (public transport) drivers and operators," said Alea.

Laguna residents corroborated Alea's observation.

Cleta Dalisay of Calamba said the price of eggs in the market was P2.60 each while a pair of short pants for children cost P20 per piece or the same as the price levels before the oil firms implemented a series of rollbacks.

Ma. Lyra Bagac of Victoria town said the one-way jeepney fare from her town to Los Baños remained at P7 while that from Victoria to Calamba was P14.

She added that the air-conditioned bus fare from Victoria to Magallanes town was P77.

Dorris Crisostomo of San Pablo City said she noticed last week that conductors of both Tritran and JAC air-conditioned buses charged her only P65 from the P90 she used to pay for a trip from San Pablo City to Kamias in Quezon City.

"But this low fare was implemented for only about four days. Today, the fare is back to P90 per passenger for this route," she said.

In Quezon, a coalition of farmers' groups scoffed at the recent round of oil price reduction.

Rene Cerilla, Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon-Ugma president, told the INQUIRER that the oil price reduction would benefit only those who have purchasing power to buy basic daily needs.

The militant Sanlakas here claimed that the recent oil price reduction was "another deceptive props in time for the Christmas season."

Lourdes Monterey, Sanlakas-ST spokesperson, said the government should cut the prices more.

"The price cut should have been more than a peso, if we would really go with the true dynamics of oil pricing trend in the world market," Monterey said.

"The problems with these oil companies is that they raise prices in a deregulated manner but cut these back in a regulated way," she pointed out.

In the Bicol Region, while motor vehicle owners have benefited from the series of oil price rollbacks, the riding public and the consumers have not experienced these benefits. *Romulo O. Ponte, Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Teleserv to tap foreign clients

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

LOCAL call center Pilipinas Teleserv Inc. is set to tap the foreign market next year if the company succeeds in breaking even during the period.

Teleserv marketing and quality assurance director Raffy David said the company was currently on track to breaking even by next year, or two years after it started operations.

David added that it was also ahead of schedule in the recovery of its investments. Because of this, he said the company would be ready to venture into the foreign market.

He said the company was able to recoup its investments of P45 million in such a short period of time because it was able to efficiently use its capital.

Teleserv boasts of being the only call center service provider to ever tie up with government agencies. This, David said, brought a lot of competitive advantage to company.

He said this had somehow prepared the company to offer its services to foreign clients.

"Our partnership with the government showcases our capability to foreign corporations. Call center is a difficult business. The client has to see what you can do. The hardest thing is to get your first client. Our partnership with certain government agencies worked to our advantage, it became a perfect showcase of what we can do," David said.

The company currently handles birth certificate-related transactions at the National Statistics Office as well as passport renewal services at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Barely two years after it started, Teleserv's partnership with the NSO had already eased the agency's load by as much as 30 percent.

People who wish to get a copy of their birth certificates need not go to the NSO, Teleserv has provided a hotline that people can call to inquire about or get a copy of their birth certificates.

The requested birth certificate would then be delivered right to the requesting party's doorstep through Teleserv's courier partner, Aboitiz One.

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HONDA

Gov't losing ₱242B yearly due to tax evasion

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance, in a study presented recently to Congress, has revealed that individuals and corporations were cheating the government of as much as P242.47 billion in taxes yearly, which is 67 percent more than the estimated budget deficit this year.

Two other government groups—the Philippine Institute for Development Studies and the National Tax Research Center—and the International Monetary Fund came up with their respective estimates of tax leakage but the DOF's assessment was considered the most comprehensive. DOF's study was based mainly on last year's data but it also included data in 1998 and 1999.

The DOF study uncovered some P69.85 billion in government revenue losses arising from leaks in the value-added tax, P59.33 billion from corporate income tax, P98.951 billion from personal income tax, and P2.563 billion from excise taxes.

The finance department also discovered P6.4 billion in losses due to leakage in documentary stamp tax or DST system, P1.18 billion in interest withholding tax on bank deposits, P2.33 billion in fringe benefits tax, P1.5 billion in gross receipts tax, and P370 million in insurance taxes.

A ranking DOF official said the tax revenue losses were computed using as benchmark national income accounts data, the top 5,000 corporations' financial reports, monthly indicator of selected industries and data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Insurance Commission.

The DOF official said individuals and corporations avoid paying the proper taxes by under-declaring their incomes, non-filing of income tax returns and by overstating allowable deductions.

"If only the government could collect these revenue losses, then we do not even have to worry about the (budget) deficit," said the finance official. This year, the deficit is estimated to hit or even exceed P145 billion. The budget gap is expected to reach P130 billion next year.

Conducting simulations on six items, the IMF uncovered P74.86 billion in tax leaks. Of the amount, P47.52 billion came from the VAT system; P4.5 billion from corporate income tax; P4.2 billion from the DST; P10.93 billion from withholding tax on banks' interests; P1.33 billion from fringe benefits tax and P1.5 billion from gross receipts tax.

The tax research groups assessed leakage in only two items but the amount of foregone revenues reached P113.08 billion. Of this, P55.96 billion came from the corporate income tax and P57.12 billion from personal income tax.

The research group said the self-employed accounted for P50.06 billion of the revenue loss while compensation earners accounted for P7.06 billion.

The DOF said that potential collections should reach P149.4 billion from VAT, P145 billion from corporate income tax, P177 billion from the personal income tax, P29.9 billion from excise tax on beer and tobacco and P28.3 billion from excise tax on gasoline, P9.4 billion from DST, P17.43 billion from withholding tax on bank deposits, P2.6 billion from fringe benefits tax, P10.6 billion from gross receipts tax, and P1.12 billion from insurance taxes or a total of P574 billion. Of the amount, however, 42.2 percent is lost yearly.

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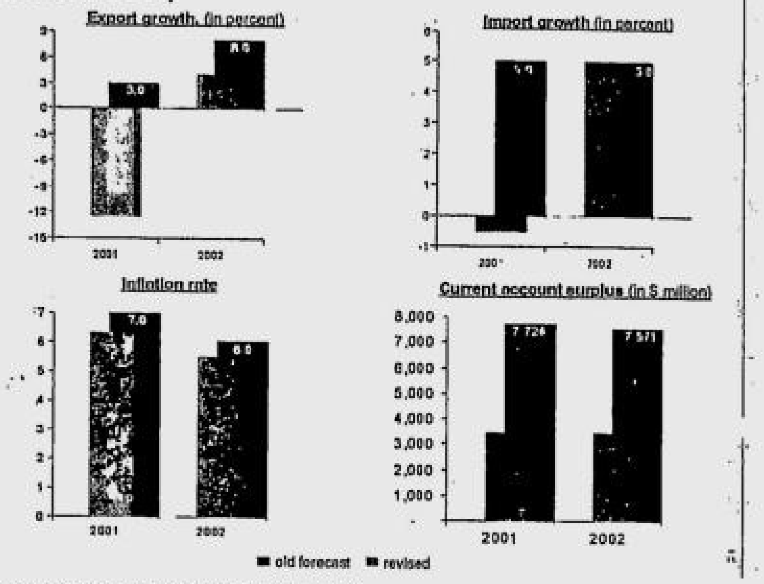

*Revised after September 11 terrorist attacks in the US

Source: Asian Development Bank

THE INFLATION rate is expected to average at 6.3 percent in 2001 and decline in 2002 to 5.5 percent if oil prices and foreign exchange rates will remain stable. Current account surplus is seen to decline this year and remain low in 2002 since imports will likely be higher than exports.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

BSP to cut banks' reserve requirement

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas may cut next month the reserve requirement it imposes on banks by two percentage points from the current level of 20 percent.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the central bank's research group has been preparing a recommendation to cut the banks' reserve requirement to be presented to the policy-making Monetary Board in December.

Tetangco refused to reveal the level of reduction being considered by the BSP although market sources said the central bank had been soliciting feedback to a one- to two percentage point cut.

"I think cutting by four percentage points would be too drastic," said Tetangco when asked if the central bank would consider bringing back the reserve requirement to 16 percent.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura earlier said the Monetary Board would discuss a possible cut in reserves by December.

"We will take a look at the reserves on December. We will watch out for factors like economic growth, net domestic credits, and inflation," said the central bank chief.

The BSP believes it has already relaxed monetary policies sufficiently after a half-a-percentage point cut in policy rates two weeks ago to 8.25 percent for overnight borrowing rate and 10.5 percent for overnight lending rate.

HSBC treasurer John McGowan said the central bank could still afford to cut its policy rates even if the US Federal Reserve would decide to maintain its short-term interest rates in December.

"The market perceives that US interest rates have already reached their bottom and any movement from now on would be upward. But the BSP still has some room to cut its rates," said McGowan.

The HSBC treasurer said the central bank could still cut its rates if the inflation rate would continue to taper off and if the exchange rate would remain stable.

A cut in policy rates and even in banks' reserve requirement will free more funds into the system that could be used to boost growth and consumer spending.

However, analysts said it could also lead to higher interest rates and a more volatile local currency.

Sources said the central bank has been soliciting inputs from the banking sector in determining the extent of excess liquidity in the system.

Of the 20 percent reserve requirement, 9 percent is considered statutory which earns interests lower than market rates while the remaining 11 percent is referred to as liquidity reserve which earns market rates.

From 7 percent, the liquidity reserve was raised by four percentage points in late July and early August. The move siphoned off about P55 billion in excess funds from the system which were suspected to be used by some quarters in speculating against the peso.

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RP gets $8.5M in USAid grant

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. yesterday said the United States Agency for International Development has agreed to grant the Philippines $8.5 million in financial assistance over the next three years to promote the use of clean fuels and support the implementation of the power reform law.

"The grant aims to, among others, support the development of a fair and open competition in the electricity market," Perez said in a teleconference with reporters yesterday.

The energy secretary is in Washington D.C. accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo in her working visit to the United States.

Perez said the grant was expected to boost the capability of the Department of Energy, National Electrification Administration and the Energy Regulatory Commission in performing their new roles as lead agencies tasked to formulate and enforce policies in the restructured energy sector.

"The DoE and USAid will continue to promote the use of clean and indigenous fuels, such as renewable energy and natural gas," he said.

To do this, Perez said the private sector would be encouraged to invest particularly in renewable energy projects in remote rural areas.

The bottom line of the agreement was to promote more efficient generation, transmission, distribution and use of power, he said.

"Also, the two agencies will support activities that will reduce excessive urban air pollution by encouraging the use of natural gas in the transport sector," Perez added.

He explained that in exchange for the $8.5 million, the DoE would provide in cash or in kind $2.75 million in counterpart funding between 2002 and 2004.

Perez also noted that the USAid has in the past 10 years contributed $22.8 million to the local energy sector.

Also, USAid had helped the government during the consultations for the Electric Power Industry Reform Act's implementing rules.

Perez said the second draft of the rules have been submitted to the Joint Congressional Power Commission last week.

LBC now SSS' collecting agent

THE SOCIAL Security System has accredited LBC as a collecting agent for contributions and amortization particularly of members working overseas.

LBC offered its services to the SSS in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for an all-out support for Overseas Filipino Workers. LBC's accreditation as an SSS collecting agent will make it easier for overseas workers to remit their SSS contributions.

OFWs can visit any LBC airpost in their areas to remit their SSS contributions. LBC has almost 100 airposts in 13 countries outside the Philippines.

LBC has airposts in Saipan, Guam, Canada, Brunei, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Spain, Italy, London and the United States. It has 54 branches in the United States such as those in San Francisco, Oakland, Vallejo, Las Vegas, Seattle, Reno, New Jersey and Honolulu.

This service to OFWs is a conscious effort of LBC to assist them in securing vital state-issued benefits. Through the SSS, members and their families are provided meaningful protection against the hazards of disability, sickness, maternity, old age, death and other contingencies resulting in loss of income or financial burden. Being a critical breadwinner, the OFW is dependent on essential social security protection which the SSS is mandated to provide.

The SSS-LBC agreement was signed by LBC Bank president Max Malagar and SSS Administrator Corazon de la Paz.

BSP bonds exceeding expectations

By Clarissa S. Batino

INVESTORS can't seem to get enough of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' bonds, proceeds of which have already surpassed expectations by $150 million at $550 million.

Proceeds from the four-year bonds will be used to beef up the country's dollar reserves to $14 billion this year.

Persons familiar with the matter said investors kept on buying debt notes the underwriter was forced to issue at a yield already slightly lower than the 9-percent coupon rate for an earlier tranche of $400 million.

A higher-than-expected turnout for the BSP borrowing, however, can have a negative impact on the national government's foreign borrowings.

A government source said since it took more funds than it needed, the BSP might crowd out any upcoming sovereign issue.

A trader said the healthy appetite for bonds issued by the central bank was due to the credible handling of the monetary and local exchange environment by regulators.

"It helps that the BSP, unlike the national government, appears to be handling its affairs well. Aside from that, the central bank has no maturity for next year, so the market felt a lot more safer parking its funds with the BSP," he added.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said earlier, $400 million was already sufficient to prevent the country's gross international reserves from falling below $14 billion.

The central bank is trying to keep its reserves at $14 billion as any level below this amount will suggest that the country will not be able to fight off speculative attacks against the peso.

As of October, the country's dollar reserves stood at $14.4 billion, a level still perceived to be healthy since it was still twice the amount of the country's short-term maturing obligations and could finance 4.3 months worth of imports.

The central bank is also counting on foreign loans that the government is set to secure to beef up the country's dollar reserves.

The government has already completed at least $850 million in fresh funds next year.

Commission on Elections
Continuing registration of voters on-going in the Office of City/ Municipal Election offices
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Gov't told to intervene to save banks

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT should intervene to resolve the banking industry's non-performing loan problems, according to two economists.

In separate papers presented on Monday, Congressional Planning and Budget Department chief Romulo Neri said the government should step in to bail out the country's banks, while Asian Institute of Management professor Victor Limlingan said lower interest rates would be a more effective policy.

The country's commercial banks are currently saddled with some P283 billion in non-performing loans and P140 billion in acquired assets.

Neri said the government and the Bankers Association of the Philippines should set up an asset management company that would count on assets from BAP contributions and low-coupon, pay-in-kind 10-year bonds with a 4-percent annual yield.

The BAP's equity in the AMC will be equal to 10 percent of the book value of the properties that its members will surrender to the AMC in exchange for pay-in-kind bonds. The BAP equity will finance the operating expenses of the AMC.

Neri said banks, by accepting the 4-percent pay-in-kind bonds in exchange for their foreclosed real estate, would effectively dispose of their land at a substantial discount of at least 40 percent based on market value.

At the same time, the AMC concept will transform idle assets into productive housing projects that will, in turn, create economic value, he added.

Limlingan, on the other hand, urged the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to adopt a monetary prescription of low interest rates by matching the US Federal Discount Rate of 2.5 percent in order to pump-prime the economy.

"By lowering the interest rate, we would revive significant sectors of Philippine businesses who will then be able to pay off their loans to the banks," Limlingan said.

BMEG to focus on hog feeds product line

By Christine A. Gaylican

SAN Miguel Foods Inc.'s BMEG Agri-Feeds subsidiary said it would focus on the development of its hog feeds product line, which had the potential to generate some P6 billion in sales because of the huge domestic demand.

"The local feeds market is still growing, though it slightly follows the agricultural sector's growth, which has recently been positive," San Miguel Food's vice president and manager for national feeds operations, George Nava, said in an interview.

San Miguel's 48-year-old feeds business unit is targeting a market share of 35 percent of the P80-billion commercial feeds business.

BMEG currently holds only 25 percent of the commercial feeds market and has about 20 satellite plants all over the country that can manufacture some 20,000 metric tons of feeds per hour.

"This is still a conservative rate of expansion. We will continue to build at least two satellite plants every year to expand our market reach nationwide," Nava said.

"The local feeds market is still growing, though it slightly follows the agricultural sector's growth, which has recently been positive," said Nava.

BMEG is one of 10 major commercial feed manufacturers in the country. Its major competitors are Purina Corp., Vitarich Corp. and General Milling Corp.

Nava said BMEG's marketing focus would come in line with its plan to stay out of the duck feeds business while giving way to another San Miguel subsidiary, Purefoods-Hormel, that carried the same line.

"We have been into product rationalization lately and shifting our efforts on developing our hog feeds line will more than compensate what would be foregone if we stop manufacturing duck feeds," Nava said.

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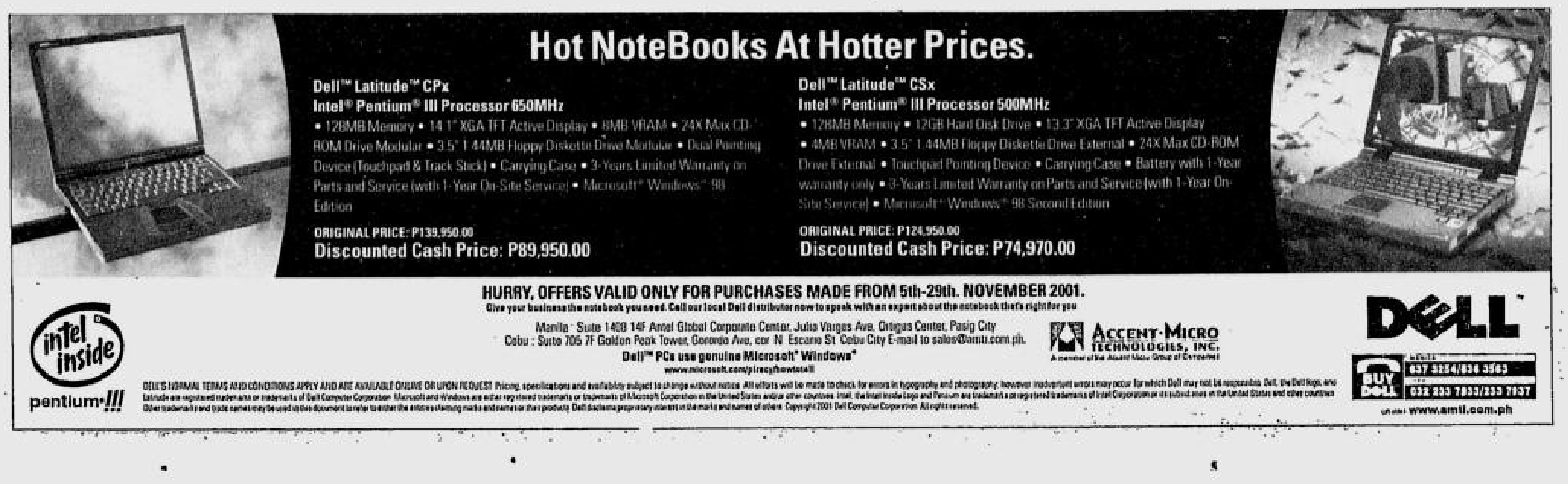

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Waste a major obstacle to Japan's recovery

TOKYO—In posh offices across Japan, thousands of state employees are overseeing housing loans at absurdly low interest rates or leading a hopeless dig for oil. Others are helping build bridges to nowhere.

Known as "special corporations," such government-funded operations and dozens like them are bleeding more than 5 trillion yen ($41 billion) in taxpayer money a year, according to the government.

Free from the usual standards of profitability or openness, the 77 special corporations employing 440,000 people have been an astonishing drain on this nation's resources.

They are proof of the extremes of waste, senselessness and inertia that plague this nation that has been fighting an economic slowdown for 10 years, mostly with empty promises for change.

But time may be running out for the world's second largest economy.

Long dependent on exports to keep its economy going, Japan must fight a global slump that is worsening after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Production is lagging, consumer spending is weakening, big-name companies are reporting losses and the unemployment rate is at a record high.

Special corporations are at the center of the reforms proposed by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who is winning public support with his vows to tackle the fortresses of old-style government.

Koizumi wants to either abolish or privatize them, reducing by one trillion yen ($8 billion) in public funds getting pumped into them over the next fiscal year. An outline of his plan is expected before the end of the year.

How far Koizumi will get is a true test for Japan's future.

The Government Housing Loan Corp., which offers mortgages at unrealistically low interest rates compared to private lenders, is popular with some consumers but it's causing heavy losses in taxpayer money—bad news for the Japanese economy.

If the operation is shut down, consumers who want to buy housing will have to get regular mortgages from the private sector that will weigh the risks of the loan and charge reasonable interest.

The special corporations are also suspected of breeding corruption.

Japan Highway Public Corp. is notorious for awarding contracts to construction companies that have become favorites of the ministry bureaucrats and politicians over the years. Critics point out some of the roads and bridges aren't attracting very many users.

At Japan National Oil Corp., which oversees the nation's oil supply and is behind an unfruitful oil search in coastal Niigata Prefecture (state), half of the 10 board members retired from ministry jobs.

Retiring from ministries to plush special corporations posts is so common Japanese call it "*amakudari*," meaning "descent from heaven."

"They do represent in a sense the old deal with the bureaucracy that they will be taken care of for life," said Robert Grondine, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan and one of the few foreigners appointed to a government economic advisory group.

The same kind of wacky logic that dominates special corporations is rampant in Japan's private sector as well.

Japan's banks have racked up a towering amount of problem loans by continuing to lend to money-losing businesses. Dubious loans at Japan's banks are estimated by the government at 32 trillion yen ($263 billion). Private analysts suspect the real figure may be much higher.

Koizumi has promised to fix the bad debt crisis in the next two or three years. If he makes good on his promise, corporate bankruptcies are likely to rise.

Earlier this month, the government acknowledged the economy will contract 0.9 percent in the fiscal year ending in March. No one had taken the initial target of 1.7 percent growth seriously for months.

The Bank of Japan, which has already lowered interest rates to zero, warns the economy probably won't start growing until 2003.

"Every economic measure you can look at has been going in the wrong direction," said Mark Fields, president of Japanese automaker Mazda Motor Corp. "The only way Japan looks good is if you turn the charts upside down."

Japan is having a hard time switching gears from a successful model of government-orchestrated modernization that guided policy during the last half-century. As a maturely industrialized nation, it now needs a new vision.

No longer able to compete in costs with modernizing Asian nations such as China, NEC Corp., Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Hitachi and other electronics giants are sinking into losses.

Even if Koizumi manages to wipe out the waste in special corporations and the bad loans at banks, those moves alone will not deliver growth.

Japan's education system and corporate culture are still caught in an outdated mindset based on simple mass production—not in nurturing individualism, innovation or even the accountability needed to survive against global competition.

There are no simple solutions, the Nihon Keizai business daily said in a recent editorial.

"There is no cure-all." *AP*

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-when was the last time you lived life?

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Russia wants non-Opec to form group

MOSCOW—Russia offered Monday to create a parallel structure to Opec with other non-cartel oil producers to help stabilize prices, days after it shrugged off an Opec ultimatum to slash its exports, the RIA news agency reported.

The proposed structure, which would be informal, would mostly serve as a way to exchange information between participants.

Russian Energy Minister Igor Yusufov made the proposal to his Mexican counterpart, Ernest Martens, who was visiting Moscow Monday to discuss the oil market situation, RIA Novosti said.

A spokesman for the Russian energy ministry told AFP he could not confirm the report.

RIA Novosti cited Martens, who would meet Norway's energy minister in Oslo Tuesday, as expressing "great interest" in Moscow's idea.

Ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries on Wednesday agreed to cut their production by 1.5 million barrels per day from Jan. 1 on condition that major non-Opec producers like Russia, Norway and Mexico cut theirs by half a million barrels a day.

Mexico announced late Wednesday that it would cut oil exports "up to 100,000 barrels a day" from Jan. 1 if Opec confirmed its conditional cut.

But Russia reiterated Friday that no one could tell it how much oil to export. *AFP*

Petroleum prices slump to new lows

LONDON—The price of oil tumbled to fresh two-year lows on Monday, with no sign of a resolution to the price war brewing between major world crude producers loath to give up their market shares.

A barrel of Brent North Sea crude for January delivery fell as low as $16.65 before stabilizing somewhat at $17.10, down 65 cents from the previous close.

In New York, December-dated light sweet crude also stood at $17.10, after slumping 93 cents.

Few traders were anticipating a marked rebound in crude prices while the standoff between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-members continued.

Opec energy chiefs shocked the market last week when they said they would not cut output again until rivals outside of the 11-nation club also made significant reductions in their volumes.

Key non-Opec producers Russia and Norway have, thus, far shown little appetite for output cuts to the frustration of Opec.

Russia offered Monday to create a parallel structure to Opec with other non-cartel oil producers to help stabilize prices, the RIA news agency reported.

The proposed structure, which would be informal, would mostly serve as a means to exchange information between participants, according to the report.

While low oil prices are a timely boon to oil-importing countries in the grips of an economic slowdown, they are a major headache for crude exporters that rely on oil revenues to keep their own economies motoring along. *AFP*

Australian GDP seen shining amid gloom

SYDNEY—Australian economic growth has returned to solid levels in the second half of this year, fuelled by robust domestic demand, a Reuters survey has found.

Though analysts are more cautious about activity later in 2002 when the housing upswing is likely to slow, growth in the third and fourth quarters of 2001 is expected to be back near trend.

That would be a remarkable outcome against the backdrop of a sharp global slowdown, a fact noted by Treasury Secretary Ken Henry on Monday night when he said prospects for the economy were "extraordinarily good" by international standards.

He attributed the outperformance to very strong domestic demand growth, and said that would have resulted in an upgrade to growth forecasts were it not for the international picture.

Treasury last month trimmed its GDP forecast to 3.0 percent for 2001-2002.

A Reuters survey of 20 market economists found the economy is expected to grow by an impressive 1.3 percent in the three months to September and by 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter.

That would take annual growth by year's end back up to 3.5 percent, a dramatic outperformance in the current weak global environment. Though US markets are looking ahead to recovery next year, the recent news has been mostly gloomy. *Reuters*

US economy seen remaining weak

SAN FRANCISCO—The sliding US economy probably will continue its descent through the winter amid rising unemployment and falling property values, a top Federal Reserve Bank official said.

The economy's output, or gross domestic product, will decline in the final three months of this year and the first quarter of next year, predicted Robert Parry, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

The economy should start rebounding in the spring, Parry forecast, resulting in modest growth in the second quarter.

Parry made his remarks Monday after a speech at a real estate and economics meeting sponsored by the University of California at Berkeley. The presentation marked his first public remarks on the economy since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"Frankly, over the short term, the outlook isn't great, and there's a lot of uncertainty," Parry said.

He said steep slump in the technology industry made it highly unlikely California—and the Bay Area in particular—would recover anytime soon.

California is the largest part of Parry's Fed district, which spans nine Western states.

During question-and-answer sessions with the audience and the media, Parry predicted consumers would curtail their spending and save more money during the next few months as businesses continue to fire workers to shore up their sagging profits. The commercial real estate industry, in particular, would "face quite a bit of challenge" as office vacancy rates rise and rents decline, Parry said.

To combat the weakness, the Fed may lower interest rates even further, Parry said. The Fed has lowered interest rates 10 times since the beginning of the year, decreasing its benchmark federal funds rates from 6.5 to 2 percent—the lowest level in 40 years.

"If it were necessary—and I am not making an interest rate forecast—there is sufficient room" to lower rates below 2 percent, Parry said.

Parry participates in the meetings of the Federal Open Market Committee that sets interest rates but doesn't vote on the group's decisions. Under the Fed's system for rotating power around the country, Parry won't vote on the direction of interest rates until 2003.

Although some economists have questioned whether interest rate cuts will provide the financial tonic the country needs, Parry said this year's flurry of reductions "will go down in the history books as effective."

He said a sharp drop in mortgage rates already have spurred a refinancing boom that has boosted household incomes and fueled consumer spending.

AP

Terror attacks curb Asia's demand for servers, IDC says

SINGAPORE—Demand for servers in the Asia-Pacific region, already crumbling because of the global downturn, took a further hit from the September attacks in the United States, a research house said Tuesday.

International Data Corp. researcher Avneesh Saxena said the outlook was bleak as companies delayed their purchases in the face of the weak operating environment.

"Already the market was slowing down because of the global recession," Saxena told AFP.

"For the short period, things will be worse and the bounce back will happen later," he said.

He said a recovery would only take place when the regional economies stage an upturn, expected in late 2002.

In a written report, Saxena said Asia-Pacific demand for servers, excluding Japan, in the third quarter ended September reached 138,000 units, or $1.3 billion, down from 143,000 units, or $1.6 billion, for the same period last year.

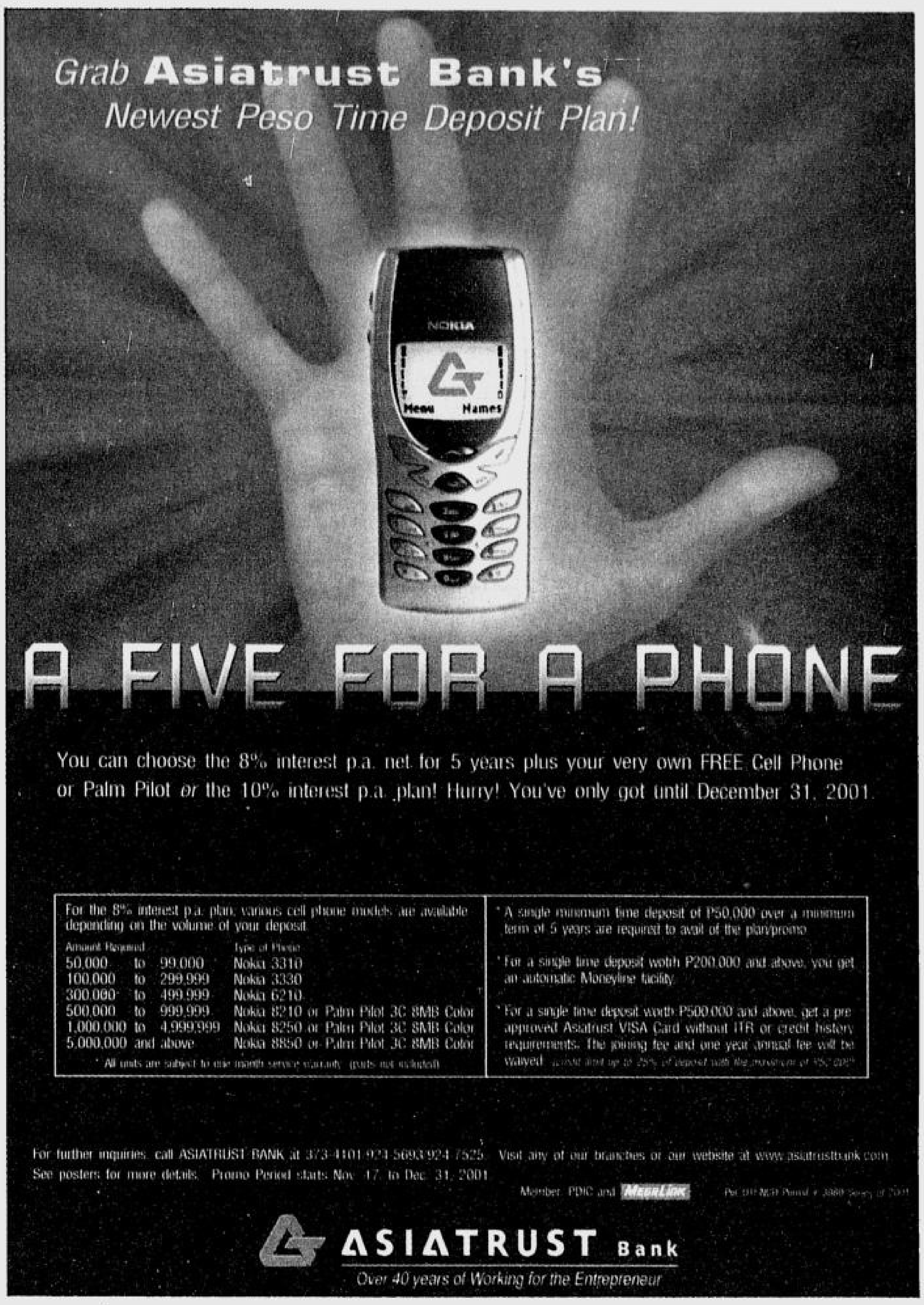
"The decline was mainly the result of sluggish economies that have affected server demand across the region," the report said.

For the full year, 542,000 units of servers worth $5.6 billion will be sold, up barely a percent from the 537,000 units valued at $6.2 billion sold in 2000.

But China remained a bright spot amid the gloomy horizon even though its economy was slowing down, said Saxena.

"What could happen is their buying can slow down but they will be relatively faster than other markets in the region," he said.

AFP



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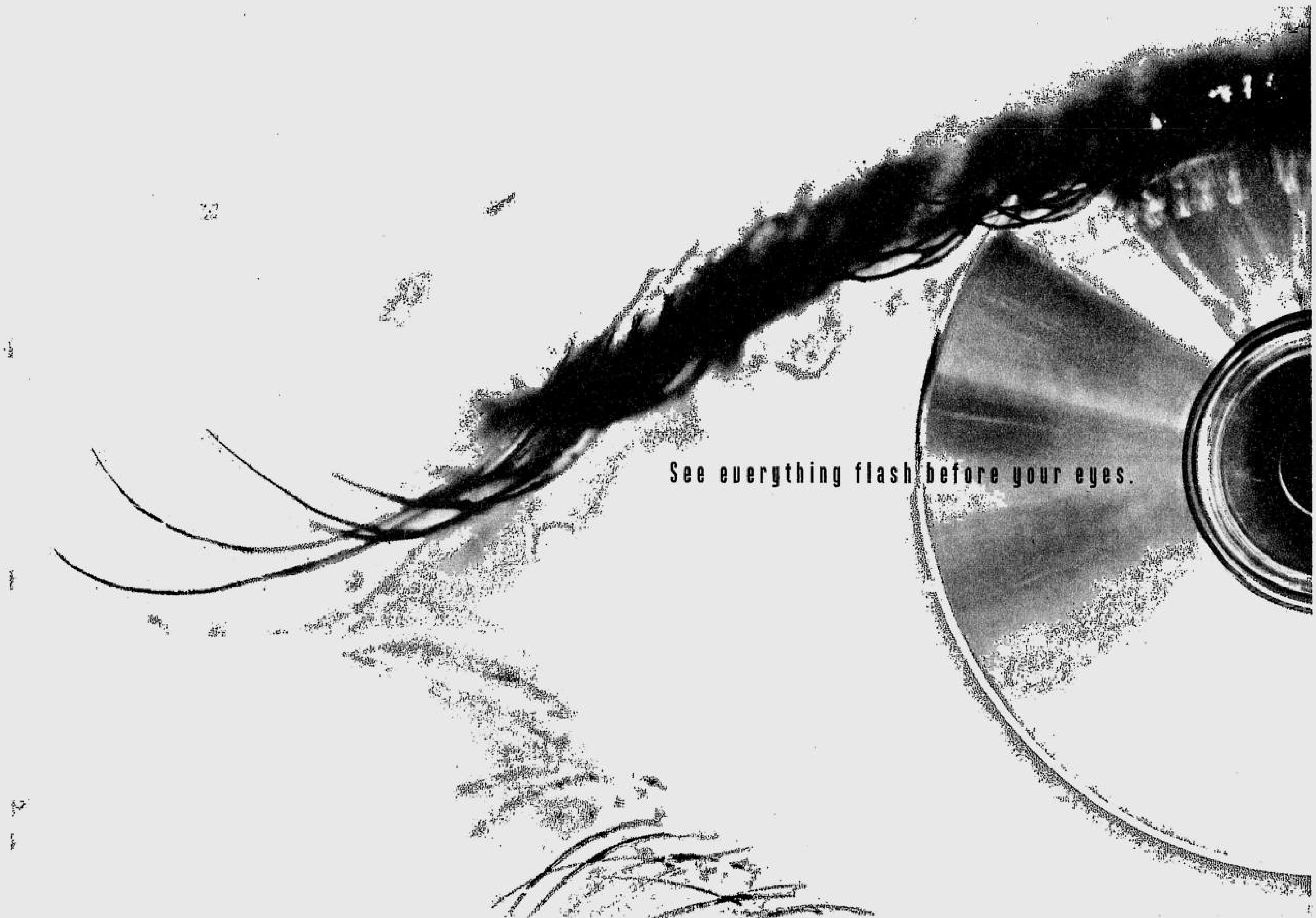
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LONDON—In the 1980s, Japan was the world's fastest growing major economy. Since the 1990s, it has been the most sluggish.

Its central bank has cut interest rates virtually to zero percent in its attempts to re-ignite economic growth—yet failed to fire up the world's second biggest economy.

In this year's efforts to revive the US economy, the world's most powerful central bank, the Federal Reserve, has been making the most aggressive rate cuts in nearly four decades.

And economists are urging deeper rate cuts by the European Central Bank to halt the decline of the eurozone economy.

But in the light of Japan's experience, could monetary policy fail elsewhere? And under what conditions?

"Japan's troubles show the usual defenses against economic slowdown can fail," wrote Paul Krugman, an influential professor of economics at Princeton University, in the New York Times.

"I've been worried about the world economy ever since I realized that depression-style economic problems could happen in the modern world, and even here in America," he said last month.

Lower interest rates are meant to stimulate economic growth by cutting the cost of credit, encouraging businesses to invest and consumers to spend more.

But Japan's experience, where firms and consumers have held back from spending, shows this does not always work in practice.

Great Depression

The limitations of rate cuts were first observed by the British economist John Maynard Keynes, who noted that during the Great Depression of the 1930s, very low rates failed to prevent one of the longest periods of stagnation in US history.

Keynes subsequently came up with the notion of a "liquidity trap." This occurs when official efforts to reduce interest rates lose their power to encourage businesses and consumers to spend because confidence is so low, no one wants to spend anyway. This is what is happening in Japan at the moment.

Andrew Smithers, who runs an economic consultancy in London, says such a trap could lie in wait for the United States, too.

"The US is just coming out of an asset bubble into the early stages of a post bubble economy and in those circumstances you have a risk of a liquidity trap," he said.

The signs are evident in US money supply, Smithers said. The broad measure—M3—has been growing on average by 8.8 percent per year since 1996.

That year, gross domestic product rose about 4.1 percent, and the continued money supply should have enabled continued growth. But a Reuters poll of economists in October forecast the US economy will shrink by 0.1 percent in 2001.

Confidence hammered

Most market economists still think Japan is an exception, held back by its big corporate debt burden and a cultural preference for holding money in savings accounts. They believe US rate cuts will eventually feed economic growth.

"The problems in Japan are more deep rooted and structural than in Europe and the US," said Stuart Edwards, economist at Standard & Poors MMS.

But, as the great US depression showed, rate cuts can also be rendered impotent by loss of public confidence—and consumer and business surveys in the United States and Europe show confidence has been hammered by the Sept. 11 attacks.

"If the psychology in the US becomes so negative that consumers and businesses shrug aside rate cuts, then it would be in that (liquidity trap) situation" said Stephen Lewis, economist at Monument Derivatives.

As with Japan, the end of US economic expansion in the 1990s was preceded by a bubble in asset prices. Between 1996 and the 1999, the US Dow Jones industrial stock index more than doubled in value and business investment rocketed.

"The worst crime a central bank can commit is to allow an asset bubble to develop. The Federal Reserve have failed miserably to learn from the problems of Japan," said Smithers.

The end of the bubble has significantly increased private sector debt, left firms with excess capacity and reduced household wealth, which will deter consumer spending.

So what can be done to prevent other economies sliding into prolonged stagnation, like Japan?

"You need to combine hard cuts in interest rates, which have happened, with very substantial tax cuts," said Smithers.

Keynes back in fashion

Fiscal policy—changing taxes and government spending to manipulate demand in the economy—was last used as a short-term economic tool in the United States and UK in the 1970s.

It went out of fashion when industrialized economies were hit by stagflation—high levels of inflation and unemployment.

Monetarist economists such as Milton Freidman argued that fiscal policy brought only temporary increases in growth and jobs and that the key to long term performance was curbing inflation.

By the start of the 1980s, monetary policy had become the chief tool of macroeconomic management and fiscal policy was relegated to a secondary role in encouraging productivity.

But now, with tax cuts of $1.35 trillion already enacted by the US congress and President Bush proposing extra government spending, fiscal policy is back in vogue.

"The loosening of fiscal policy is quite unprecedented in recent times," said Edwards at Standard & Poors MMS.

Like monetary policy, fiscal stimulus has its drawbacks.

"Budget deficits could get huge and this could cause sharp rises in real interest rates and inflation building up in the system later on," said John Butler at HSBC.

But Smithers says bigger public sector deficits are inevitable. "A rise will come either because we go into a nasty recession—or because we create deficits deliberately to prevent one or mitigate it." *Reuters*

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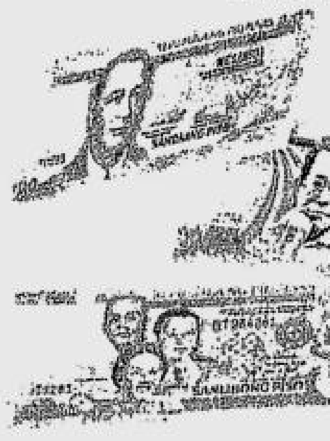

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November 30, 2001 Friday

1:00pm - 2:00pm Role of DTI Bureau of Business Dev't & Small & Medium Enterprise Development Council for SME's;
by : DTI - SMED Council

2:00pm - 3:00pm Let's Go Eat Forum (Food & Restaurant Industry)
3:30pm - 4:30pm Let's Go Surf Forum (IT & Communications Industry)
5:00pm - 6:00pm Let's Go Manufacture Forum (Manufacturing & Trading)
by: Let's Go (Leading Entrepreneurs Towards Sensing Global Opportunities)

6:00pm - 7:00pm How to raise Funds from little personal money
by: Chikka.com's Dennis Mendiola

7:30pm - 9:00pm Opportunities To Succeed Seminar
by: Manila Jaycees

December 1, 2001 Saturday

1:00pm - 2:00pm It's My Business: Choosing the Right Business
2:00pm - 3:30pm For Starters: Starting Your Business
* Registering your business& other gov't requirements
* How to prepare your biz plan
4:00pm - 5:30pm Show Me the Money: How to Finance Your Business
5:30pm - 7:00pm An Entrepreneur's Success Story
by: Entrepreneur Magazine

December 2, 2001 Sunday

10:30am - 12:00pm How to set-up the legal paperworks and permits for your new business
by: Joel Nunez, Manila Jaycees

1:00pm - 5:00pm "Let's Go AccessCAPITAL : An Online Tool to Biz Planning"
by: Marfred Pranada, AccessCAPITAL

5:00pm - 6:00pm Is Franchising Right for You? Choosing the Right Franchise
by: AFFI or FranLinkAsia

6:00pm - 7:00pm Trends and Opportunities in the IT Industry
by: Toby Monsod or Genetic Computer Institute

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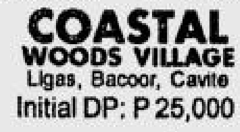

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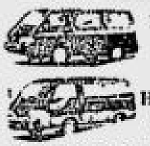

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **FORTUNATO A. RIVERA JR.** has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. 151 Pge 32 Bk 10, series 2001 of Not. Pub Lucas V. Sugui
(PDI-11⅞, 14, 21, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of **ROBERTO P. VALDEZ** is extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc.#158, Page#33, Book#44, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco.
(PDI-Nov. 21, 28 & Dec. 5, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that **King of Kings Trans Inc.** bus plate Nos. PYG780, 770, 830, 825, 835; PYK290, 693, 703; PYN426; PYL383, 373, 303, 323, 353, 767, 413, 403; PYJ727, 757, 303 & **Don Mariano Trans Corp.** Nos. PWL460, 470; PWZ132, 152; TVV420; PWA138, 148 178, 108, 188, 168; NXL988; PXR470; PVV438, 288, 218, 228, 258 were lost. (PDI-11/21/01)

Notice is given on the loss of BPI Cert No. 175733 (1820 shares) in the name of Catalina I. Medina (PDI-Nov. 7, 14 & 21,2001)

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER

O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

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QUEZON METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
Lucena City Tel Nos. 71-33-52; 71-28-55

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) under the 20th Yen Credit Package to finance the cost of the Quezon Metropolitan Water District (QMWD) Water Supply System Comprehensive Improvement Program. QMWD will finance the cost of the construction of a reinforced concrete ground reservoir as part of its equity contribution to the project.

The QMWD is inviting all interested constructors having a valid CATEGORY B PCAB License and Classification for Medium A Water Supply to submit their Pre-qualification Statements (Pre-C) for the construction of one (1) 2000 cubic meters reinforced concrete ground reservoir; estimated construction cost in PhP6.1M.

Pre-qualification documents can be obtained by interested contractors at the PBAC Secretariat, QMWD office, Red-V, Ibabang Dupay, Lucena City upon presentation of a copy of valid PCAB Contractor's License and payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00.

Accomplished Pre-C forms must be received at the QMWD office on or before 5:00 p.m. of **December 11, 2001.** Documents submitted late will not be considered and will be returned. All applicant contractors will be notified in writing of the status of the Pre-C Evaluation. Only-pre-qualified contractors will be issued bid documents. Bidding date will be announced later.

QMWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informality in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by PBAC, is the most advantageous to the QMWD.

Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information at Tel-fax No. (042) 373-3692 and/or inspect the Pre-C forms at the PBAC Secretariat.

(Sgd.) **ENRICO B. PASUMBAL**
General Manager

(PDI - Nov. 21. 23 & 26. 2001)

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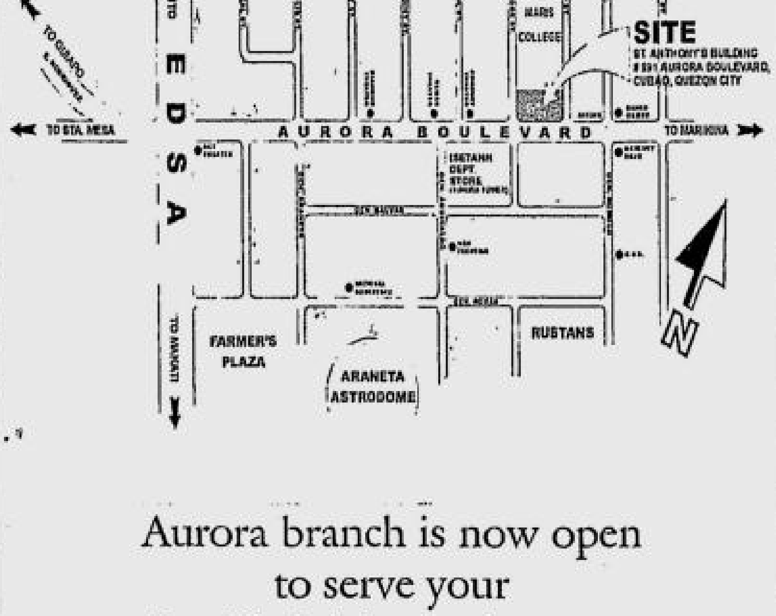

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
PROCUREMENT & LOGISTICS SERVICE
SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
RIZAL AVENUE, STA. CRUZ
MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. 711-6831

Invitation for Bids

Early Childhood Development Project
Supply and Delivery of Cold Chain Equipment
IFB No. WB-ECD-01-08-2002

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Early Childhood Development Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of various cold chain equipment.

Items	Unit	Quantity
a. Ice lined Refrigerator 160-200 Liter	set	5 sets
b. Vaccine Cold Box	set	213 sets
c. Domestic Refrigerators 8 cu. ft.	set	30 sets

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

   Procurement and Logistics Service
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
   Tel. No. (632) 711-6831
   Telefax No. (632) 711-6712

5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000) or US$250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash, or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and persons' contact telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:00 a.m. on January 8, 2002. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned unopened to the bidder.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the following address at 9:00 a.m. on December 11, 2001.

   Multi-Media Conference Room
   Bldg. # 18, Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above at 9:01 a.m. on January 8, 2002.
9. The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities and to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to DOH.

By the authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Nov. 21 & 25, 2001)

LIGHT
RAIL
TRANSIT
AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

ITB No. 11-113-01

The **Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA)** invites interested bidders to participate in the bidding for scrap materials at the LRTA depot, Pasay City.

One (1) Lot Various Scrap Materials and unserviceable vehicles and equipment

Bid forms may be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat from **November 21 to 26, 2001** at Administration Building, LRTA Cmpd. Aurora Blvd., Pasay City.

DEADLINE for the submission and opening of bids will be on **November 28, 2001, Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.**

All bids must be accompanied by a bidders bond in the form of Manager's Check or cash in the minimum amount equivalent of 2.5% of the total bid price. All communications shall be addressed to the Chairman, LRTA-BAC at the above address.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and to accept bids that may be considered advantageous to the Authority.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MELCHOR M. ALONZO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 21, 2001)

Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology (BAC-IT) Resources

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BIR invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for all or any of the following CY 2002 projects:

Lot 1 - *Facilities Management Services*
Lot 2 - *Maintenance of Sun Servers*
Lot 3 - *Maintenance of Network Equipment and Facilities*
Lot 4 - *Maintenance of Various Microcomputers and Peripherals*
Lot 5 - *Internet Service (for Computerized and Non-Computerized RDOs)*
Lot 6 - *Frame Relay Service*
Lot 7 - *Lease of Development Server*
Lot 8 - *Acquisition of New EFPS Production Server*
Lot 9 - *Lease of Microcomputers and Printers*

Interested bidders may obtain further information on the eligibility requirements and availability of bid documents from BAC-IT Secretariat at Room 306, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Building, BIR Compound, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone numbers 929-2315, 981-7080, 981-7560 and 926-8369 (fax).

The BIR BAC-IT assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

Asst. Commissioner **VICTOR G. BORROMEO**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee for Information Technology (BAC-IT) Resources

(PDI--Nov. 21, 2001)

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City of Calapan

IN RE: PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF

MINORS RAFAELA FALIA U. MENDOZA AND MARY ANN U. MENDOZA,

SPL. PROC. NO. R-5035

JAMES R. BATTISTA and
MIRAFLOR L. FAJARDO-BATTISTA,
Petitioners.
x- -x

ORDER

A verified amended petition having been filed by the petitioners, Spouses James R. Battista and Miraflor L. Fajardo-Battista, the petitioner husband being a citizen of the United States while petitioner wife is a Filipina by consanguinity, her parents being both Filipinos. Petitioner Miraflor L. Fajardo is now a naturalized citizen of the United States of America having acquired her citizenship since September 7, 1982 and now the petitioners have their temporary residence at PCS 2, Box 10977, APO, AE, 09012 American Air Base, Germany, praying that minors Mary Ann U. Mendoza and Rafaela Falia U. Mendoza, both single, 13 and 14 years old, respectively, be declared for all intent and purposes the children of the said spouses by adoption and finding the said petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court orders that the petition be set for hearing on December 4, 2001 at eight thirty in the morning, before this court sitting at the Hall of Justice, Provincial Capitol Complex, Camilmil, Calapan City, with notice to any and all persons interested to show cause, if any, why the same should not be granted.

The Social Worker Officer II of the Regional Trial Court of Calapan City is hereby directed to conduct a case study as required by Art. 33 of Presidential Decree No. 603, as amended, in the first instance and independently of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and thereafter, submit her report and recommendation to this Court pursuant to R.A. No. 8369, otherwise known as the "Family Courts Act of 1997" not later than December 4, 2001, the date when this case is scheduled for hearing.

ACCORDINGLY, let copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in an accredited newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, and let copy of this Order be furnished the Solicitor General, #34 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, the Provincial Prosecutor of Oriental Mindoro and the Social Worker Officer II of the Regional Trial Court, Calapan City, for their information and guidance.

SO ORDERED.

City of Calapan, November 7, 2001.

(Sgd.) MANUEL C. LUNA, JR.
Judge

(PDI--Nov. 14, 21 & 28, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Office of the Secretary of National Defense (OSND) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements for CY 2002:

1. Building Janitorial Services
2. Pest Control
3. Servicing of Air-conditioning units
4. Foreign and Local Newspapers
5. Purified Water
6. Gasoline & other POL Products

Bidders are requested to submit the following documents/requirements for eligibility on or before November 26, 2001 at 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Procurement Branch, Office of the Administrative Services, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, telephone number 911-8118.

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business/License Permit (2000)
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last two years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of clients for the last 2 years
7. Certification from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the National Labor Relations Council (NLRC) that no labor case has been filed against the bidder for items 1, 2 & 3.
8. List of Gasoline stations in Metro Manila, Baguio, Tarlac, Zamboanga City.

Inquiries for the details and particulars on instructions to bidders, bid documents, and other details shall also be provided during office hours at the Office of Administrative Services, OSND. A pre-bid conference shall be held on November 29, 2001 at 2:00 P.M. DND Physical Fitness Center, DND Annex, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of bid proposals and opening of bids will be on December 6, 2001 at 10:00 A.M. for items 1, 2 & 3 and at 2:00 P.M. for items 4, 5 & 6 on the same date at the OASPER Conference Room, DND Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to the bidders whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as Evaluated by the OSND Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (OSND BAC).

This Invitation is also posted in the AFP Website at www.armedforces.mil.ph and DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org. and at conspicuous places in the premises of the DBM Procurement Service and the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) Atty. **RICARDO R. BLANCAFLOR**
Assistant Secretary
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Nov. 21 & 28, 2001)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

AD NO. PD-2001-061

One (1) Year Term Contract for Preparation, Notarization and Documentation of Import Entry Declaration (IED) from January 01, 2002 to December 31, 2002 with the following schedules.

Pre-Bid/Time	Bid Opening/Time
November 28, 2001	December 12, 2001

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City for the following requirement:

Bidding documents available on **November 20, 2001** upon payment of P100.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of valid Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE).

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents - (morning's only, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.). For inquiries please call Tel. No. 921-2574.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

Materials Management Department
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - Nov. 21 & 22. 2001)

OBITUARY

JUAN RAMOS MERINO

Passed away peacefully 18th November 2001.

His bereaved wife **VIRGINIA UNSON MERINO**; children **GERARDO, HERMAN & ELIZABETH IGNACIO, RAMON, MIGUEL ANTONIO & IRENE RODRIGUEZ, JAIME & DODITS NAVARRO**; grandchildren **JESSICA & SAMANTHA, AIRA DANIELLE & MIGUEL ANTON II**; brothers **GONZALO & PACING, SALVADOR** and sister **ROSALIE**; brother-in-law **ALEJANDRO F. UNSON, JR.**; nephews, nieces and relatives requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sacred Heart Shrine, Dau Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Interment at Manila Memorial Park will be on Friday, 23rd November 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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Emiliana Mabalay Bartolome

"Palad" / "Miling"

Widow of **Fruto Feliciano Bartolome**

We, her family are grateful for the Lord's goodness, as she rest in tranquil slumber in the loving arms of her Creator on November 19, 2001, Monday at.the age of 86.

Children:

- **Elizabeth & Rene Cristobal**
  - Rene Arsenio and Janice Ruth (Gregorio)
    - Patricia Ruth
    - Jared Nathan
    - Ashleigh Miriam
    - Nigel Matthew
    - Alexandra Noemi
    - Beatrix Eunice
  - Reniel Fruto and Maria Elena (Francisco)
    - Rebekah Ileana
    - Reniel Niccolo
    - Sabrina Isabel (†)
  - Rea Elizabeth B. Cristobal
- **Mercedes & Emmanuel G. Kimwell**
  - Emerisa Andrea and Valiano Mina
    - Andrea Kirsten
  - Editha Lois and Antonio Mijares
    - Anita Ysabel
    - Antonio Karlo
  - Emily Beth and Emmanuel Garcia
    - Kelsey Nicole
    - Jacob Emmanuel
  - Emmanuel Bart B. Kimwell
- **Francisco and Linda (Gutierrez) Bartolome**
- **Arsenio III and Ma. Rosario (Reyes) Bartolome**
  - Lourdes Ma. and Tomas Chuidian
    - Enrique Tomas
    - Jaime Sebastian
  - Angelica Ma. and Antonio Tambunting III
    - Franco Gabriel
  - Aurelio Paulo R. Bartolome
  - Veronica Ma. R. Bartolome

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
Adelaida (†) and Ambrosio (†) Grospe
Sofronio (†) and Emiliana (†) Mabalay
Oseas (†) and Pacita Mabalay (†)

Nery Feliciano Bartolome (†)
Arsenio Jr. (†) and Susana Bartolome
Benjamin and Beatriz Bartolome

Sotera (†) and Lustrico (†) Cenon
Joel and Salud (†) / Sheila Mabalay
Amos and Purita (†) Mabalay

Manuel (†) and Gloria (†) Bartolome
Adriana and Clarence (†) Claypool

Her remains lie in state at the IEMELIF Cathedral Church at 640 Peñalosa cor. Nicolas Zamora Sts., Tondo, Manila*.
There will be a necrological service in the Cathedral Church on November 23, 2001, Friday at 8:00 a.m.
Interment will follow at the Loyola Memorial in Parañaque.

In lieu of flowers, the Bartolome family will appreciate any donation to the Arsenio F. Bartolome Memorial Scholarship Fund,
for the education of Pastors, Missionaries and Deaconesses at the IEMELIF Bible College.
For the duration of the wake, the Church will be closed at 12:00 midnight and will be opened at 6:00 o'clock the following morning.

"He will remove all their sorrows, and there will be no more death, or sorrow or crying, or pain."
Revelations 21:4

* Directions going to Tondo:

From **MAKATI**: Take Roxas Boulevard all the way to Del Pan, cross Del Pan Bridge, take Radial Road 10, then turn right to Moriones, left turn to Juan Luna and then left to Peñalosa cor. Nicolas Zamora St. Church is on the left side.

From **QUEZON CITY**: Take Quezon Boulevard going to España. Then right turn to Gov. Forbes (A.H. Lacson), then left to Tayuman all the way to Pritil Wet Market, then left to Nicolas Zamora cor. Peñalosa. Church is on the left side.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life and I shall live
in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

CARLOS VILLADELREY SAMANIEGO

Peacefully joined his Creator on 19 November 2001
at the age of 83.

His bereaved wife **Aurora** (†); children and their spouses **George** and **Necy**, **Cita** and **Ed**, **Bert** and **Josie**, **Lina** and **Tony**, **Jimmy** and **Ruby** and **Eddie** and **Felyn**; brother, sisters and in-laws **Leoning** and **Baby**, **Nene**, **Lourdes Chuidian**; **Viring** and **Tito**, **Celing**, **Moling** and **Atang**; **Grace** and **Froi**, **Corito**; nephews and nieces, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus de Liguori Mortuary, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 22, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"I am the Resurrection and the life; he who
believes in Me will live even when he dies..."
John 11:25

CAPT. REBECCA ANDAYA FLORENDO, NC

November 28, 1939 - November 19, 2001
Wife of the late Brig. General Oscar M. Florendo

Her children **Oscar Jr.**, **Ferdinand**, **Dianne** and **John Michael**; her brothers **Noe**, **Alvaro**, **Johnny**, **Ruperto**, **Jose** and **Stephen**; sister **Priscilla**; mother-in-law **Manuela Florendo**; her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives and friends request for your prayers at this time of their bereavement for the loss of a loving mother, compassionate sister, thoughtful aunt, kind cousin and a faithful friend.

Her remains lie in state at the Multi-Purpose Center, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Interment with military honors will be on Saturday, November 24, 2001 at 12:00 nn at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

Atty. Sam Tinio Dizon

November 22, 1924 - November 19, 2001

He passed into the Loving care of the Lord.

His only sister **Amada**; brothers **Amado "Pong" Rustico** (†), **Lincoln** and **Plutarco** (†); brother-in-law **Marcelino** (†); sisters-in-law **Leoncia**, **Francisca**, **Eufemia**; nephews, nieces and grandchildren request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Parlor, Camus St., Davao City, November19-20, 2001 then to be transferred on November 20, 2001 to his residence at #79 Aquarius St., GSIS Heights, Matina, Davao City.

On Thursday morning, November 22, 2001, his mortal remains will be flown to Manila and will lie in state at the Multipurpose Hall of Sta. Ana, Pampanga Parish.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 24, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

MEDARDE BELON ALMARIO

"Medy"

has peacefully joined our Creator on the 19th day of November 2001
at the age of 46.

Her bereaved parents **JUDGE ENRIQUE & DR. MARIA RAMA ALMARIO**; brothers, sisters and in-laws **ADALIA & ENRICO**, **CECILIA & FERDINAND**, **HILARIO & CECILIA**, **ENRIQUE & LOURDES**, **GODOFREDO & KAREN**, **CHRISTINE**; nephews & nieces **DERICK**, **ARIEL**, **JANDELLE**, **CARINA**, **BOOGIE & BILLY**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

WELLAMINA KHAN BOSTRE

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 10, 2001
at the age of 69.

Her loving husband **Mike**; children **Ma. Teresa**, **Ma. Corazon**, **Ma. Socorro**, **Ma. Vivian Lynn**, **Michael** and **Mary Ann**; sons-in-law **Jose**, **Edgardo**, **Gov. Jun Perez & Ronald**; daughter-in-law **Melody**; and grandchildren **Vincent Nicolas**, **Venice Natalia**, **Jose Martin**, **Jacqueline Vanessa & John Victor** request the kind readers to please pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 24, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Alphonsus Church.

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Online learning upgrades working mom's skills

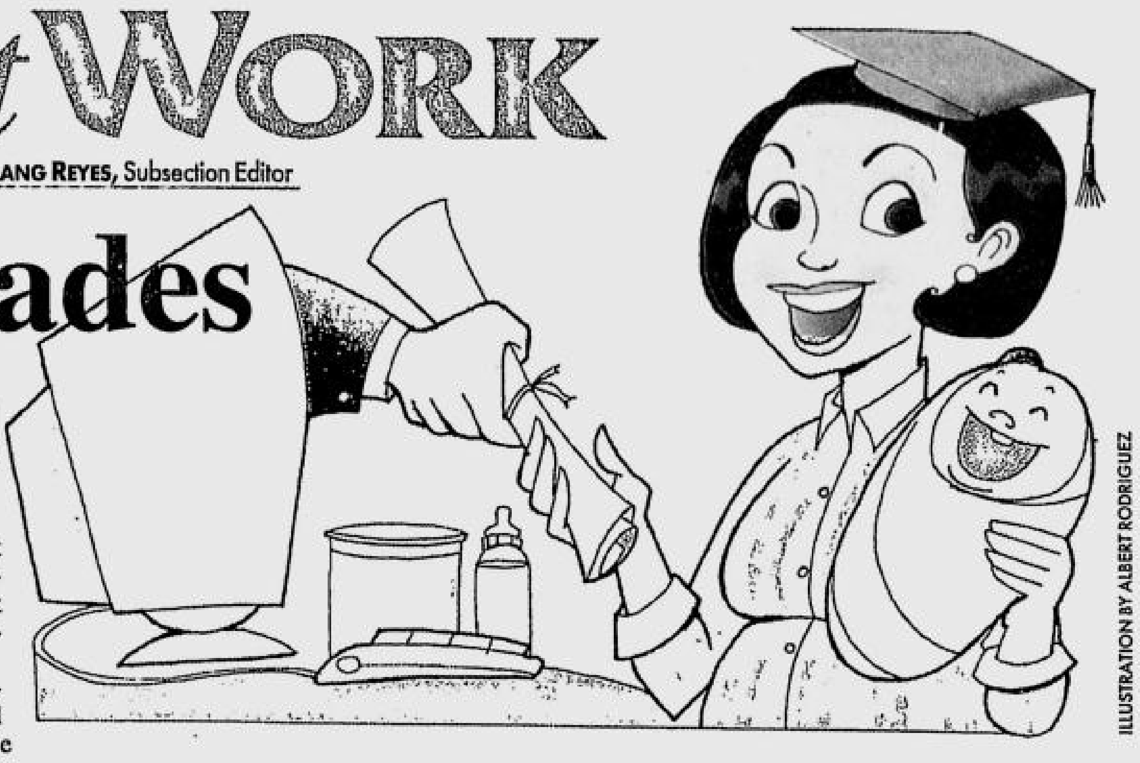

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

> Distance learning did not mean less work

By Didith Tan Rodrigo

ABOUT five years ago, I realized that I was in serious need of retraining. Like an old piece of equipment grinding to a halt under new work demands, I was long overdue for an upgrade. I found myself wanting to go back to school. Several institutions worldwide offered the course I wanted—a doctorate in instructional technology. The problem was, I was married and had just given birth. Pulling up stakes and leaving for abroad indefinitely was simply out of the question. The solution was distance education.

Distance education is a formal learning environment in which the teacher and student are geographically apart. There is little or no face-to-face contact between the two parties. Instructors deliver course content—lectures, course notes, readings, exams—using print, audio, video and digital formats. Dialogues and discussions take place over e-mail, chat rooms or discussion boards. In some cases, students are required to spend some time on campus for both educational and social purposes. After successfully completing the course, the learner receives an academic credit, a certificate or a degree.

Internet search

To find the education I wanted, I searched the Internet and found Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The university's name didn't ring a bell. It was not as high-sounding as Harvard or MIT. However, it had a doctoral program in computer technology in education using an online format. So, I enrolled.

The distance education's greatest come-on is that it allows you to study anytime, anywhere and at your own pace. To a great degree, I found this to be true. I finished most of my coursework in the comfort of my own home and I conducted all my dissertation research locally. However, anytime, anywhere learning did not mean less work. Each subject I took required 10 to 12 hours of study each week. I still had deadlines to meet. At one point, I had to take time off from work just to finish my research.

Higher dropout rates

Thus, it was not surprising to learn that student attrition was higher for distance formats than for traditional formats. Many do not finish because they lack motivation. Either they find no personal gratification from the experience or there is no incentive or pressure for them to complete the course. Others enter the course, learn what they want to learn and then, having obtained their objective, leave without finishing. Some students find that distance education is not for them and that they simply prefer the structure of on-campus programs. Some students drop out because they are unfamiliar with the technology. Still others suffer from anxiety caused by a feeling of isolation.

The successful online student is one who sees his education as an avenue for personal (as opposed to simply corporate) growth, is willing to 'travel the road' for the most part alone, and is hell-bent on finishing the course.

Those who opt for distance courses are typically tech-savvy adults over 25, working and with a college background. They find it difficult to extricate themselves from their careers. They need the flexibility afforded by an online course.

Local online resources

There are several local institutions that offer a range of distance education courses. The University of the Philippines Open University (UPQU) (http://www.upou.org/) is a pioneer in distance teaching and learning. UPOU offers diploma and graduate-level degrees in a range of disciplines—education, computer science and heath, among others.

De La Salle's Graduate School of Business recently launched its mba.online@gsb (http://www.dlsu.edu.ph/mbaonline/).

For working reporters, the Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University (CFJ) launched five online courses: Investigative Reporting, Reporting on Business, Reporting on Conflict, Media Ethics, and Media Law (http://aegis.ateneo.net/cfj/).

Is distance education effective? It can be. The success or failure of a distance education course really depends on the care with which the learning institution prepares its instructional and administrative resources, the excellence of the teachers and the commitment of the students. In my case, going the distance was the best educational decision I ever made.

(Ma. Mercedes T. Rodrigo is an instructor at the Ateneo de Manila's Department of Information Systems and Computer Science.)

(E-mail contributions to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

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PDI Jobmarket team: From left are Ning Lalicon, Masoy Cabuhat and Joy Tabuso.

By Rochelle Leonor

FOR THE third time this year, more than a thousand working people flocked to attend the People at Work Live! Seminar Series this time held at the Equitable-PCI Bank Tower 1 Bldg. from Nov. 13 to 15.

Wanting to learn survival skills in this period of uncertainty, conflict and risk, the attendees, mostly executives, managers and supervisors, took the opportunity to avail of world-class learning from seasoned resource speakers.

World-class speakers

On the first day, Alan Barker gave a lecture on "Effective Influencing Skills." He is the Regional Director for Asia Pacific of Strategic Consulting Services and Director of IMPACT Consultancy Group, SCS' Philippine partner. Barker discussed the different influencing styles and competencies. He said that positive influencing skills are vital in today's team-oriented and loosely structured organizations. These skills will effectively enable one to deal with other people in such a way that they feel positive about their interactions.

On the second day, Career Systems Inc. president Josefina Santamaria tackled "Effective Conflict Resolution Techniques." Santamaria discussed the different kinds of conflict and the fundamental attitudes in interactions. She also talked about the different conflict resolution styles. She noted that conflict should be seen as a learning opportunity to explore new ideas and stretch one's imagination. She pointed out that when conflict is dealt with constructively, people can be stimulated to greater creativity, which will lead to a wider variety of alternatives and better results.

Risk management

On the third day, Marsh Philippines president and CEO David Jacob discussed "Managing Risks in Life and at Work." A risk and insurance management company, Marsh has provided service and support to its clients for many years. The most recent and trying risk support it gave was to itself when Marsh's New York office in the World Trade Center was destroyed and many of their employees died during the Sept. 11 attacks.

In his discussion, Jacob noted that risk, inspite of its negative connotation, shouldn't be seen as such. He said that to face risks is to be presented with opportunities. He added that risk contributes greatly to the economic progress of people and corporations. Jacob also discussed the techniques for risk management whether corporate in nature or personal.

Varied attendees

The third run of the seminar series brought people from different places. A number of participants came from the provinces from as far away as Samar, Batangas, Cebu and other areas.

Sr. Ma. Leonora Pataueg, MCJ, principal of Barobaybay Academy of Northern Samar, notes, "The seminar is very enriching. I plan to teach what I learned to my faculty and fellow administrators," she says.

Daniel Agustin, assistant manager of Insular and Hihgen, is all praises for the seminar, as well. "A great program. Your topics are responsive to the times."

Prizes

Raffle prizes such as INQUIRER T-shirts, specially designed People at Work mugs and T-shirts, and bottles of wine donated by IMPACT were given away.

The third run of the People at Work Live! Seminar Series was made possible with the help of companies who care for people at work. They are: PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER's Job Market, Equitable-PCI Bank, Audio Visual Driver International (Phils.), Inc., IMPACT Consultancy Group, Career Systems, Inc. and Marsh Philippines. The event was organized by Optimus Managers and Advisors, Inc., the official seminar organizer of PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER for the People at Work Live! Seminar Series.

The seminar series was hosted by INQUIRER's Corporate HR Services Manager Jesse Francis Rebustillo on the first day, Joy Fallarme Nery on the second day and Optimus Marketing Director Ricky Garcia on the third day.

JOY Fallarme Nery, second day emcee

PDI HR Manager Jesse Francis Rebustillo, first day emcee

INTENTLY listening to survival tips

IMPACT
Consultancy
PHOTOS BY ROCHELLE LEONOR

THE IMPACT Consultancy group. Second from left is Daisy Marquez, IMPACT managing director

Jobless employee identifies globalization as villain

By Tita Datu Puangco

RECENTLY, I was retrenched by a semiconductor company. It is a company that has shown its concern for employees through training and proper coaching of employees. But management did not seem to have a choice. Our key markets for our products, the United States and Japan, are in an economic slowdown. I am disillusioned and ask myself why this had to happen. Perhaps, I am young and idealistic. But I honestly think globalization is not good for the country. We were better off before WTO and GATT. What do you think?

Retrenched Idealist

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

Your questions are very tough indeed. The issues around globalization are complex and there are no easy answers. I cannot blame you for feeling victimized by globalization. It is sad that good companies have to let go of their people in order to survive.

I came across an interesting book entitled, "Prometheus Unbound." It talks about the unleashing of global financial markets enabled by information technology and how multinational investment houses are able to move funds from one country to another with the flick of a finger. This is one of the causes of the Asian financial crisis. It demonstrates how national governments could in fact be helpless in the face of or become destabilized by global forces.

Interconnectedness

Globalization has interconnected all or most markets and will continue to do so with the prevalence of the World Trade Organization and the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade. I believe that globalization is ideal only if there is parity among nations. However, the United Nations, in a report, noted that there is inequality in knowledge, technology and resources among countries. The richer and more powerful countries have become richer while third world countries have become poorer.

Another downside of globalization is the manner that it has promoted materialism and consumerism. Goods have become cheaper and people have started to consume more and even beyond reason. Concern has been raised as to whether our planet can sustain such consumption patterns for long. The environment has taken a beating as countries exploit, in a non-sustainable way, their natural resources.

But can we go back to the past where our nation can charter its destiny separate from other nations in terms of its trade and economy? Honestly, I don't think the trend can be reversed. Also, I don't believe it will be good for a country to do so. What is required is to tame the new phenomenon called globalization.

A global structure needs to emerge, probably under the aegis of the United Nations, which will manage and control globalization. It is a global government that can put some controls on liberal capitalism. One such move that has been proposed is the Tobin tax, which will tax funds that cross borders and will be used as a development fund for poor countries.

Not the only villain

While globalization can take part of the blame, we cannot use it as a scapegoat for all our miseries. One cause of our miseries is our lack of competitiveness as a country. We are saddled with politicians who are more concerned with enriching themselves, squandering precious resources at the expense of the people. We have the economic elite, who engages in capital flight at the first sign of trouble. Or pay only lip service in helping the poor and the destitute.

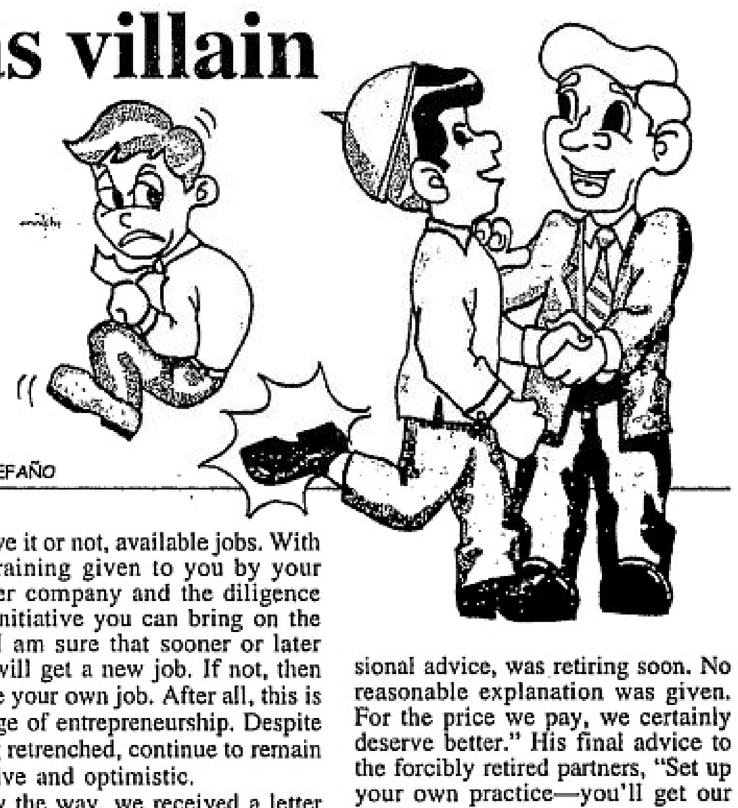
Some countries our size have thrived under globalization. To name some, I can cite our neighbors, Hongkong, Malaysia, Singapore. The practice of good government pays off as they are in a better position to weather economic crisis.

Culture

Lastly, I believe that the enemy is us. Our culture does not have the patience and perseverance to build institutions that are built to last and will provide continuing service. We know what we need to do, but we always take the easy way out. People who can lead and help the nation grow shirk public service. We never learn from history, as we never spend enough time processing and reflecting what has happened or why it happened.

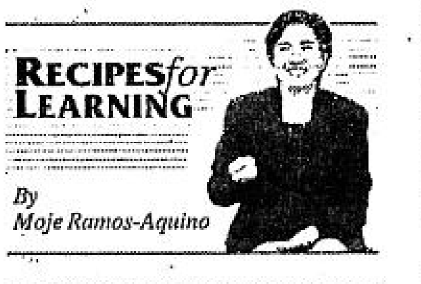
Forgive me for getting carried away. But my advice to you is: find a job. Even in a down market, there are pockets of opportunities and, believe it or not, available jobs. With the training given to you by your former company and the diligence and initiative you can bring on the job, I am sure that sooner or later you will get a new job. If not, then create your own job. After all, this is the age of entrepreneurship. Despite being retrenched, continue to remain positive and optimistic.

By the way, we received a letter from a reader on our advice to anonymous accountants. The reader (apparently one of the firm's clients) points out that the firm did not have the clients in mind when they forcibly retired the senior partners. "We were advised that the partner in charge of our account, from whom we received high value and professional advice, was retiring soon. No reasonable explanation was given. For the price we pay, we certainly deserve better." His final advice to the forcibly retired partners, "Set up your own practice—you'll get our vote."



(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Delegation is not merely passing the buck



By
Moje Ramos-Aquino

LAST week, we discussed the proper attitude towards delegating as a time saving and people development strategy to achieve life plans while enjoying the process. Today, we are suggesting ways of delegating responsibility and authority to other people.

Don't rush into delegating tasks. It is not merely the act of passing on a task to another person. Delegating entails a lot of thinking and planning to be beneficial. Consider the following process:

- Analyze your own job. Determine your job objectives and the results expected of you. Identify the things you need to do. Can any of these be done more effectively by somebody else in your unit or trained to do it?
- Decide what to delegate. Review decisions you make most often and low-yield tasks that eat up big chunks of your time. Assess tasks you do not particularly relish doing or do repetitively or routinely.
- Plan your delegation. Delegate complete jobs. It will be more satisfying to your delegatee to work on a single task rather than several fragments of the task and will ensure a more elegant, tightly integrated solution. At the same time, take a careful look at essential details. Establish performance standards. Clarify appropriate scope of authority. Determine reporting mechanism, including what information is needed, how often and in what form. It is wise to follow the maxim, "If you can't control it, don't delegate it."
- Select the right person. Consider the qualifications, knowledge, skills, values and attitudes of your staff or co-employees. What are their development needs? What tasks will add variety and challenge to their own jobs?
- Delegate effectively. Explain how the job you are delegating job fits into the overall goal of your functional unit. Be sure you communicate clearly the results that are needed, the importance of the task, the constraints within which it should be carried out, the deadlines for completion and the feedback and follow up procedure.
- Let go! Let your staff or co-employee get on with the task. Refrain from constantly looking over his/her shoulders. He/she might just do it a better, faster, most cost-effective way than you do. There are different ways of skinning the cat, so to speak. Personal styles also vary.
- Give help and coach when requested. Accept that one way your delegatee will benefit from the experience is through making mistakes and learning from them. It is important to support your delegatee promptly and appropriately when they are having difficulties, but do not do the job for them. Your task at this point is to help them develop their self-confidence to do the task. Don't short circuit or take back assignments.
- Accept only finished work. Insist on timely feedback. You have delegated a task to take some workload off you. If you accept only partially completed jobs back, then you will have to invest time in completing them and your delegatee will not get the satisfying experience of completing a project. Expect results, but not perfection. Don't expect overnight success, though.
- Reward good performance. Give credit where credit is due. Recognition reinforces remarkable work ethics, sets good examples and raises the bar.

Delegating is downward or sideward. It is never upward lest it becomes buck-passing. Your task is to help your subordinates become better at their job for themselves. Your task is to make sure that the people who work on a problem or task are the ones who should be working on the problem or task.

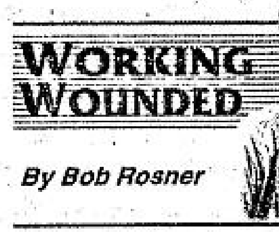
Delegating is not abdicating your job. While it is desired that you delegate to your staff as many tasks as possible that are not cost effective for you to carry out, ensure that you do not delegate control of your team, your work unit. Remember that you are ultimately responsible for the success or failure of your team and work unit.

Effective delegating involves achieving the correct balance between effective control of work and letting people do jobs on their own and in the process, develop their competencies.

Erratum: It is Asian Eye Institute, not Asean. They are located at 9F Phinma Plaza, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Ask for Glo Sayson when you call their telephones 898-2020 or 898-2002.

(E-mail feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com*)*

What to do with a boss who asks you to lie



By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I've had some ethically challenged bosses before but this guy takes the prize. Recently he told me to lie to another manager. I don't want to do it, but I'm afraid if I don't, my job is toast. What should I do?

Just Say No?

Speaking of toast, did you know that toasting someone with a drink goes all the way back to the ancient Romans as a way of proving to the person that you had no intention of making him "toast?" By drinking first, you assured him that the drink you were offering wasn't poisoned. Of course, these days you might not want to offer that particular assurance to your boss . . .

But before you take a drastic action, take a look at Ira Chaleff's book, "The Courageous Follower: Standing Up, To and For Our Leaders" (Berrett Kohler, 1998). With bookstore shelves bulging with books about leadership, this one's a welcome treatise on "followership." Among its points: a follower doesn't orbit the boss; together boss and follower should orbit the company's goals.

I've adapted the following questions from Chaleff's book. Use them to help you decide whether to join your boss in raising a glass, or whether to raise a flag to say that things are amiss in your department.

1. Are you being asked to break the law? Breaking the law for material gain or just for expediency shouldn't be a requirement of any job. Before blindly following your boss' orders, consider how employable you'll be with a felony on your resume.

2. Will someone be harmed by what you're being asked to do? Loyalty is good, but all bets are off if human life or health is being unnecessarily risked by what you're being asked to do.

3. Is a special interest being served at the expense of the common good? Usually a boss' interests and the organization's interests point in the same direction. But occasionally a leader and his organization come to a fork in the road. When that happens, you need to consider who will benefit. Is your boss ordering this action for the good of the company-or for his own personal gain?

4. Are the rules of common decency being violated? There's only one true thing about common decency: it's not common to everyone. What's unacceptable to you may, in fact, be acceptable to others. So talk to people you trust inside and outside of your company to get their take on the request.

5. Is there more to the story than you realize? Ask your boss—respectfully!—why he's asked you to lie to this other manager. Perhaps there's a reason, history, politics or piece of information that will make his request more acceptable.

Hopefully you'll find that your boss's request is not as ethically-challenged as it appears. But if your research suggests it is, it's time to take action. Give up your seat at the table before he poisons the rest of your career.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: What song would you sing if your boss asked you to do something unethical? (1,236 responses)

—"Sounds of Silence," 22.4%

—"Sound of Your Goodbye," 26.7%

—"Sound Off," 50.8%

Our winning strategy on what to do when a boss asks you to do something unethical comes from G.C. in cyberspace. "I've been on both sides of this. I've been the boss and have had employees tell people I wasn't in and other little white lies, but I never asked anyone to do something illegal. As an employee, however, I did things that I knew were not the truth to cover-up and lie for my boss. Now he is gone, quit, his secretary who also really covered-up and lied beyond the call of duty is gone, and I'm in the hot seat with a felony charge against me. Everyone else involved covered his or her tracks very well. My advice, do what you know is right regardless of whether you become toast or not, because one way or another you'll be roasted not toasted!"

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ PAM PASTOR, Chief of Correspondents

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From the most potent beverage mixes to those curious creatures called bouncers, from the most outrageous tricks to pick up guys to alternative ways of having a swell time, from the gay scene to the anti-nightlife scene, 2bU! lets you in on the wanderings of the hippest night owls

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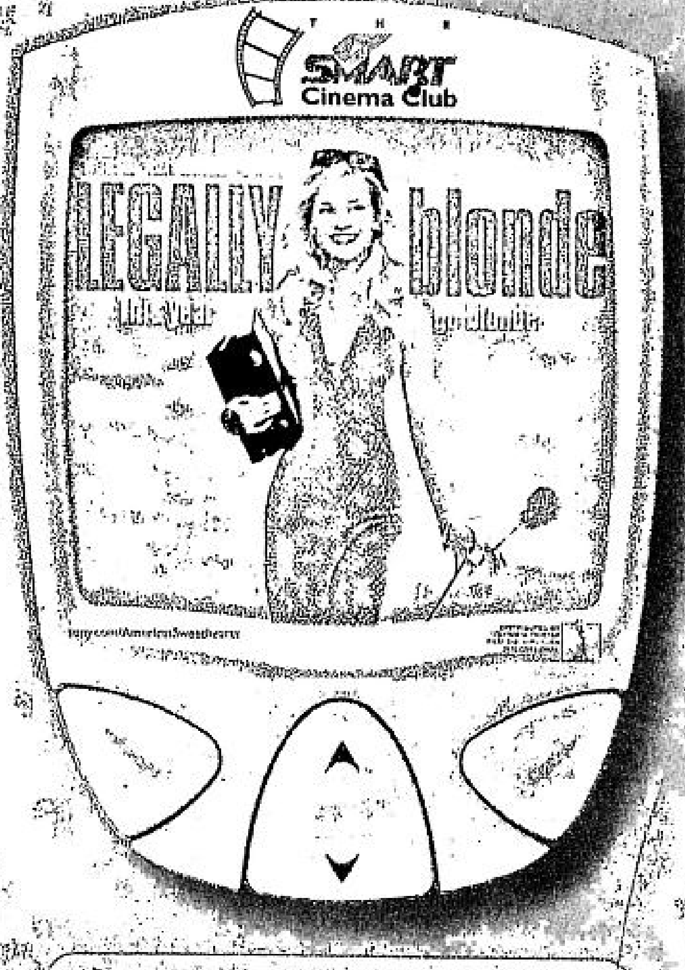

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[illegible] PLAY LB1 [illegible]
1. A French bank
2. All judges are present
3. Club

ELLE KNOWS
[illegible] PLAY LB2 [illegible]
Ex: How many birthdays does [illegible] have?
[illegible]
2. 75
3. 80

BLONDE TRIVIA
[illegible] PLAY LB4
Ex: Who plays [illegible]?
1. [illegible]
2. Jennifer Aniston
3. Courtney Cox

BLONDE SCALE
How blonde are you? [illegible]
Key in PLAY LB3
Ex: Which magazine do you subscribe to?
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2. People
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[illegible] SEND [illegible]

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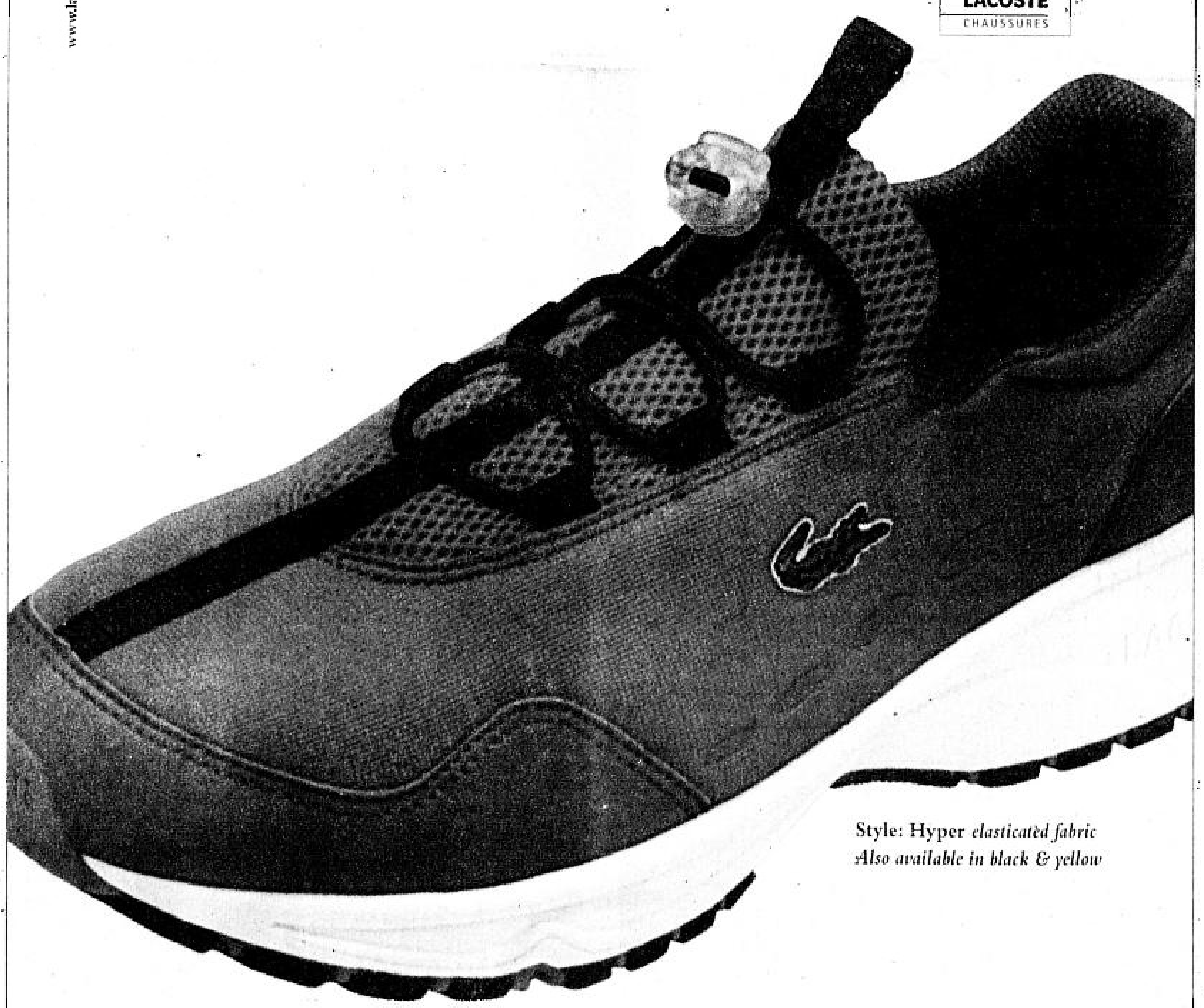

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The bouncing business

BY JASMINE W. PAYO

CLUB revelers may envy Havy Bagatsing for partying all night and getting paid for it. But this 22-year-old bouncer from Wherelse says many don't know that bouncing is a serious business. With his massive 6-ft frame, Havy knows his profession carries that "dumb jock" impression. But he says one actually trains to become a bouncer. "A lot of people think it's 'gimmick,' but it's not," he says.

His stint at the club scene started innocently enough. "In college, everyone was working during the summer. I tried working in a fast-food joint but I got fired, so forget about it. So one time I thought, why not use this body? I work out in the gym like hell and I don't use it for anything," he says.

But armed with a mass communication degree and coming from the well-known Bagatsing clan, Havy wasn't taken seriously at first. "I went around the clubs in Malate and told them I'm interested to work as a bouncer. But they were laughing because they were thinking I don't have to work as a bouncer," he says.

But soon Havy got the breaks and learned along the way that he boarded one serious and dangerous profession. "When I applied for insurance, they would never insure me because bouncers are high-risk," he says. Going around the club scene for nearly two years, Havy has already worked for several upscale clubs. And right now, he candidly shares more of his night life stories.

HAVY.AND WHERELSE CREW: (from left) Manuel Llige, marketing manager; John Singson Cu-Unjieng, general manager; Havy; Mike Pulgar, promotions and marketing assistant; and Val Ablan

PHOTOS BY JASMINE W. PAYO

How do people react when they learn about your job?

Some are cool about it. But some are thinking like he's just a dumb bouncer who can't understand English or just a guy with a big body and air in his head. There are mixed reactions. There's also the misconception that we're big security guards. Or sometimes, a big waiter! People order drinks from us. Then there's also that misconception that we get women and we get a lot of drinks. That's definitely not allowed.

Meet the bouncer. When you cross the line, you deal with him

What are your main duties as a bouncer?

Bouncers have three main priorities. First is on fighting. Once a fight happens, we have to make sure the fight stops as quickly as possible.

Second is the drug situation. We have to make sure no one sells or takes it inside. Third is theft. We remind our guests to take care of their belongings because "*salisi*" gangs can get in.

What kind of training did you have to go through?

Bouncers have to know some kind of self-defense tactics or martial arts. Some study grappling or aikido; mine is boxing and a little ground fighting. We have sparring between bouncers, but we also have seminars and trainings. Our organization, the Professional Bouncers Association, teaches us the science of drugs and how to read what drug a person is on. We meet every Sunday morning and discuss how we can improve the security of the club. We also meet with the police forces in cooperating with the drug users we catch.

What's a typical night like?

Most people come in at 12 midnight. We stand up and go around, use our eyes, find what we can find. We make sure there are no fights and no drugs. It gets hard also because you have a dark room with these lasers and smoke all around, and you have to spot a pill the size of a penny. As much as possible you keep an intimidating front so it won't come to a point that you have to prove yourself. '*Yung matakot lang sa tingin*, okay *na 'yun*. We're really discouraged to go cavorting around with the customers. You're not allowed to drink and smoke.

Have you thrown people out of the club?

The best bouncer is the bouncer who can talk his way out of trouble. As much as possible, we try not to use our size or our discipline. *Pero kung ayaw talaga*, we tell them that if they choose to force their way above us, we will do what we are paid to do. We've thrown people out. Like if we catch people with drugs, we confiscate them, send them to the cops, and the guy is sent home. If he still wants to cause a scene, we send him with the drugs to the police station. We've also banned people from a minimum of one month to as much as a year.

BOUNCER HAVY: "As much as possible, we keep an intimidating front."

Have you ever engaged in a fight?

Bouncers are not allowed to fight. A bouncer is only allowed to strike back if he is being attacked. So in a thick of a fight, for example, you will get hit as you try to stop it. You always have to practice the virtue of patience and make sure your body can take it.

How do you deal with drunken customers who get rowdy?

It's easy to go around them. Just tell them they drank too much and they can come back tomorrow for another party. *Pero kung ayaw talaga*, we apply little tactics, lock him and kick him out. If he tries to come back, push him out some more.

What are the perks of the job?

Oh God, it's eye-candy. You can see anyone who is famous. And in my case, I'm a guy, you get to see all these pretty girls dancing there. You get to meet a lot of big-time people. I've met most of the Fil-Ams in basketball and show biz. We get big tips from select, very big-time clientele. You also get to work only three times a week at night. The rest of the days, you can do anything you want.

Have you ever been picked up?

Oh yeah. A lot of guys try to pick us up. Women, I wish. (Laughs) With the ratio of guys and girls who go to the clubs, I don't know why I'm so unlucky. Somehow, I have this gay scent going on that attracts them. (Laughs)

How would you describe the club scene right now?

It has suffered because of the economic crisis now. A lot of people are staying home or drinking at a friend's house. But people are getting open to new music. So hopefully, if ever things go back to normal, the club scene is going to boom.

What do you do during your free nights?

Hearing music and seeing all the lights can get tiring. So when I have the chance, I just stay home—rest my body, watch TV, rent videos or call people up.

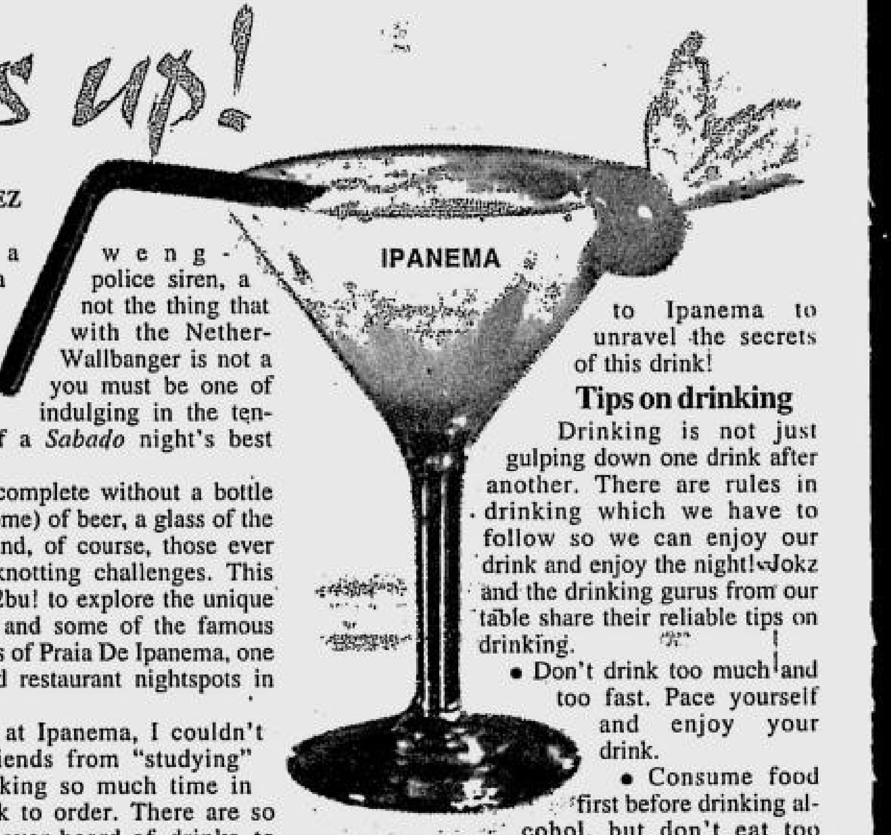
What do you love most about bouncing?

I love the unity of the bouncers and the respect that I get. I know I graduated from a four-year course and I can always enter something else. But I stuck with bouncing because I like that respect and the military-type of discipline you get from it. It's like, this is our job and we will do it. Whether you like it or not, it's not for us to consider. When you cross the line, you will deal with us.

Bottoms up!

The bar scene has a lot of alcoholic beverages for young people. But drink moderately

BY CELESTE GOMEZ



IPANEMA

IF to you, a weng-weng is not a police siren, a windmill is not the thing that we always associate with the Netherlands and a Harvey Wallbanger is not a human being, then you must be one of those who enjoy indulging in the tension-easing effects of a *Sabado* night's best friend—alcohol!

Nightlife is never complete without a bottle (or maybe bottles to some) of beer, a glass of the newest cocktail mix and, of course, those ever famous cherry-stalk knotting challenges. This nightlife issue brings 2bu! to explore the unique Brazilian concoctions and some of the famous local varieties of drinks of Praia De Ipanema, one of the newest bar and restaurant nightspots in Eastwood City, Libis.

During that night at Ipanema, I couldn't blame one of my friends from "studying" the drink list and taking so much time in choosing which drink to order. There are so many famous and never-heard-of drinks to choose from that sometimes you end up getting that trusty bottle of beer. Luckily, I had the privilege to go "behind the bar" with Jorge Aquino (or Jokz for short), the head bartender of Ipanema, to ask the real deal about alcoholic beverages.

According to Jokz, there are three main categories of alcoholic concoctions here—the cocktails, the shooters and the long drinks. Cocktails usually have a lighter alcohol content compared to other mixed alcohol drinks. The Margarita, Ipanima, and Caipirinha are some of the best-selling cocktails in Ipanema.

CAIPIRINHA

The shooters, on the other hand, have the second highest alcohol content and are consumed in just one "shot." Some of Ipanema's own shooters worth trying are hypomagic jaguar, dodo bird and tingle. They are usually the ones that give that intense hot feeling down your throat.

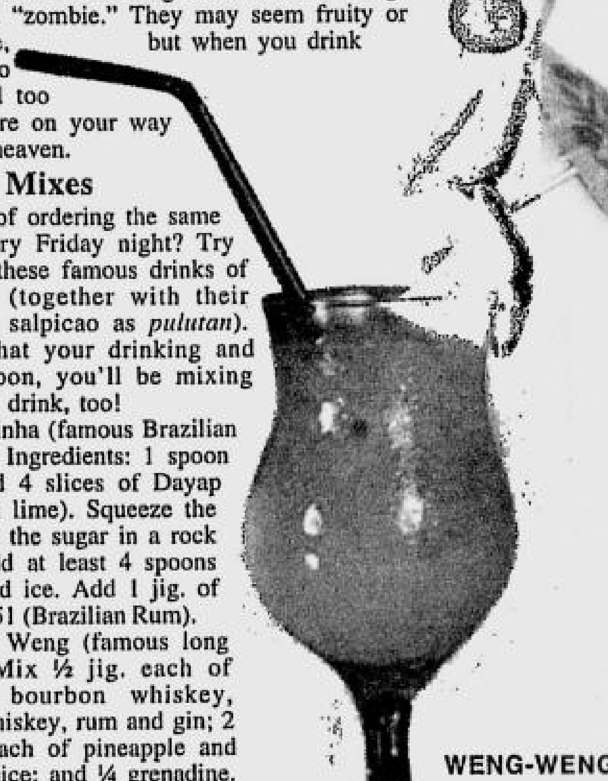
The drinks that give the strongest kick are the long drinks like the weng-weng and "zombie." They may seem fruity or juice-like, but when you drink them too much and too fast, you're on your way to tipsy heaven.

Mixes

Tired of ordering the same thing every Friday night? Try some of these famous drinks of Ipanema (together with their delicious salpicao as *pulutan*). Know what your drinking and maybe soon, you'll be mixing your own drink, too!

Caipirinha (famous Brazilian cocktail). Ingredients: 1 spoon sugar and 4 slices of Dayap (the local lime). Squeeze the fruit with the sugar in a rock glass. Add at least 4 spoons of crushed ice. Add 1 jig. of Cachaça 51 (Brazilian Rum).

Weng Weng (famous long drink). Mix ½ jig. each of brandy, bourbon whiskey, scotch whiskey, rum and gin; 2 ounces each of pineapple and orange juice; and ¼ grenadine.



WENG-WENG

Ipanema (Brazilian cocktail named after the restaurant).This is served in a martini glass and based on Bailey's, gin and pineapple with secret ingredients. Go to Ipanema to unravel the secrets of this drink!

Tips on drinking

Drinking is not just gulping down one drink after another. There are rules in drinking which we have to follow so we can enjoy our drink and enjoy the night! Jokz and the drinking gurus from our table share their reliable tips on drinking.

- Don't drink too much and too fast. Pace yourself and enjoy your drink.
- Consume food first before drinking alcohol, but don't eat too much because you'll get bloated even before drinking.
- Alcohol is dehydrating so in between alcohol intakes, drink water and don't stop yourself when nature is calling you—go to the bathroom! You need to remove all that alcohol in your system before driving home.
- Hard drinks should come first before beer (for maximum "staying power").
- Don't ever drink and drive! Remove that tipsy feeling first by drinking water or soft drinks and going to the bathroom.
- To remove the hangover after a night of heavy drinking, drink lots of water or tomato juice.
- Better still, drink moderately. You drink to enjoy, not enjoy to drink.

JOKZ of Ipanema

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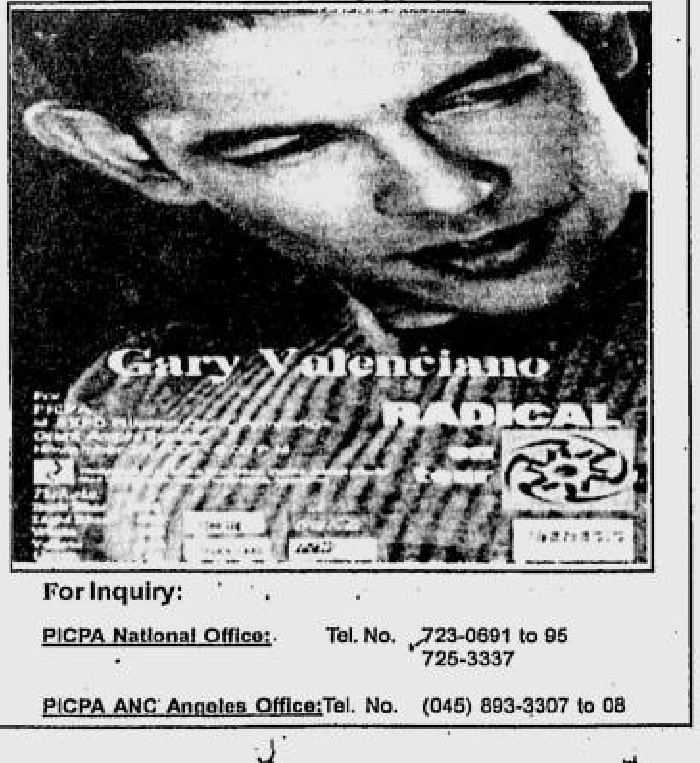

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Literature campaign promotes reading among teens

LAST year's Teens Read, Too! (TR2) disproved the notion that teenagers would rather party and go to malls than enjoy the company of good books.

This literature campaign for young adults is back, with more support from institutions who believe that reading should be promoted among teens, that young writers and readers deserve attention, and that the young adult literature genre could be where future great work begins.

The campaign kicks off with the celebration of Teen Read Day in different high school campuses this November. Twelve schools, both public and private, have signed up for the project, almost doubling last year's number of participating schools. The list now includes Ateneo High School, Miriam High School, Poveda Learning Center, UP Integrated School, Assumption High School, St. Benedict's College, Diliman Preparatory, De La Salle Greenhills, Philippine Cultural High School, Pateros National High School, St. Paul's College-QC and Lourdes School-QC.

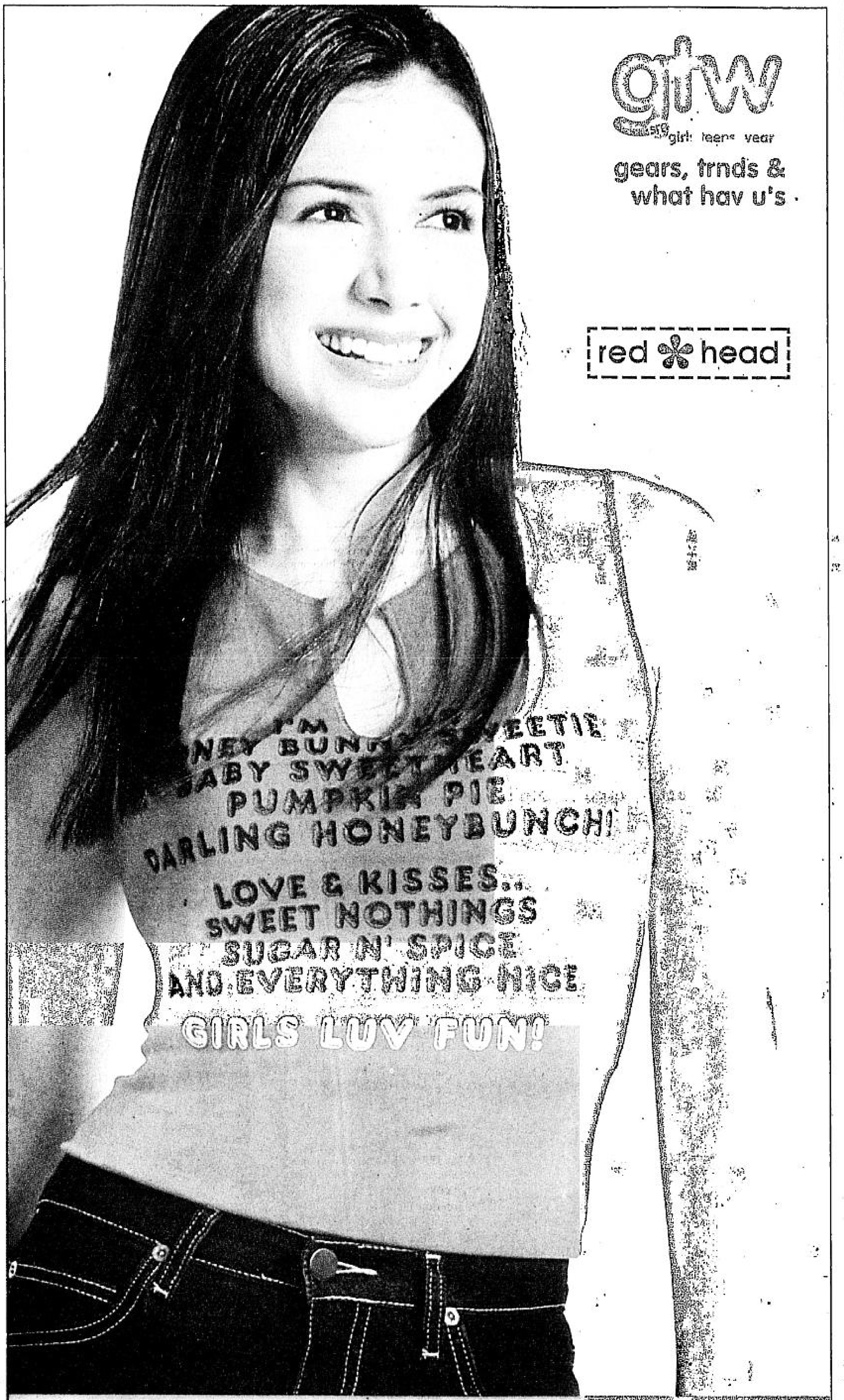
The different high schools will take part in a number of events geared toward a better appreciation of literature. In "Meet the Author," young student writers get a chance to interact with their favorite poets, fictionists, essayists and news writers who will give them tips and insights on literature and the craft of writing. "Slam and Jam," a modern version of Balagtasan, enjoins students to rap their favorite verses, dialogues or excerpts from stories and plays. PowerBooks and National Bookstore will also be donating a selection of young adult titles to the libraries of schools coming in for the second year. "Teen Read Day" includes activities like the Search for Best Reading Campaign, where participating high schools compete in the quest for the most effective and most original reading campaign.

A second component of TR2 is the annual "Pilar Perez Medallion for Young L: Adult Literature." Now on its second year, the contest addresses the lack of youth-oriented reading materials by Filipino authors in the market and is aimed to discover the next batch of novels for teenagers. Submissions are now being accepted and the winning manuscripts will be published by Adarna House. Filipino Heritage Library will offer workshops for high school teachers on how to teach young adult literature.

In Teen Lit Camp happening in April 2002, 20 outstanding teen writers will meet in Mount Makiling for discussions on the art of writing. Facilitated by some of the best contemporary Filipino writers, the week-long set of workshops and activities are designed to develop in teen writers a taste for insight, an alertness to craft and an openness to literature and its demands.

Teens Read, Too! is supported by Adarna House, Filipinas Heritage Library, Candy Magazine, MTV Ink and the INQUIRER.

SIGNING a memorandum of agreement are Candy Magazine Group Publisher Aurora Mangubat, Adarna House president Emelina S. Almario, INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, Filipinas Heritage Library director Antonia Ortigas and MTV Ink editor in chief Christine Fonacier



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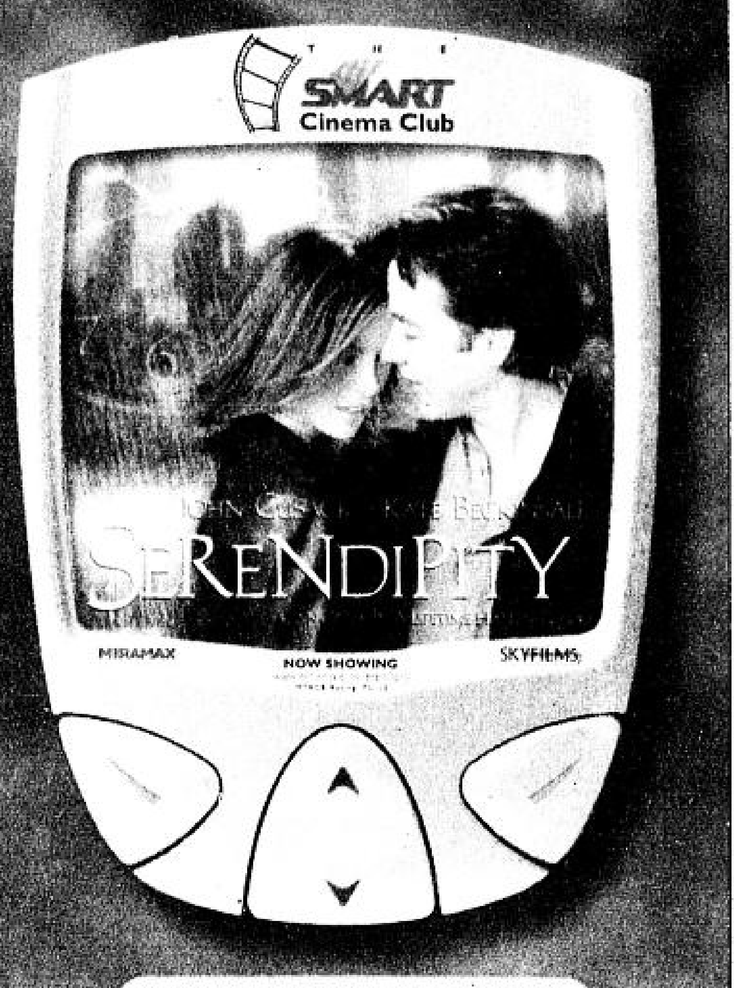

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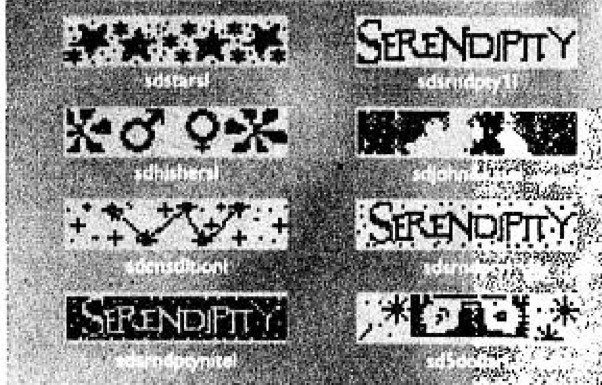

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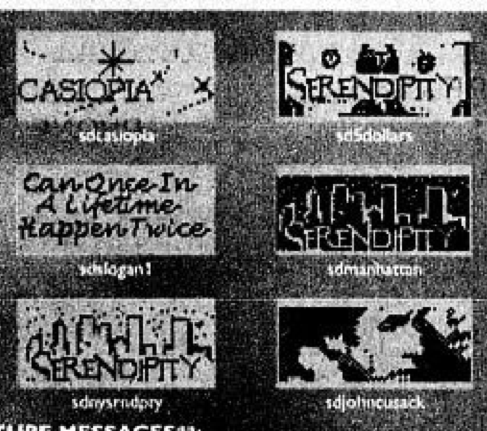

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ultimate nightlife guide

Makati

Beluga Bistro and Pravda Wine Bar
225 Nicanor Garcia St. Bel Air 2
890-1287, 899-2863

Be more dressed than usual. This nice Russian-inspired place is famous for good wines and mellow music. If you are the type who loves to socialize and climb the social ladder, you wouldn't mind being seen in this joint.

Che Cigar Bar
Power Plant Mall, R1 corner Rockwell Drive and Estrella Street

International cuisine plus a good selection of cigars available. Being in Rockwell, Che has a really good atmosphere and location. You could run off to the next party without the hassle of traveling.

Cork
Rockwell Strip

With a hundred and one choices, it's hard to select which cork to pop to go with your French crêpes or Russian schaschlik.

Club Sex
Bautista Street

"Sex" stands for "sound experience" and not for anything else. This place boasts of a billiards hall and a laid-back vibe perfect for those after-school or after-office moments.

Porch
Bautista Street

This orange and black bar is homey. Walking through the door makes you feel like you're stepping into an intimate party. Try the "Boy Bastos" and see how long you can stay standing.

Cable Car
Pasay Road

Before North Park and Hap Chan, there was Cable Car. It's a place for hanging out with your *barkada* after after-hours.

Flute
Legaspi Village

Famous for its "Sex & the City" martinis and gastronomic surprises, this elongated bar attracts a beautiful bar crowd even on weekdays. Its being out of place makes it more refreshing.

Dish
Power Plant Mall, 3/F Cinema 1 Level
898-1824

Great place to go drinking because of its cheap prices and live bands. All you have to do is sit back and choose from a wide range of food from seven different restaurants all in one room.

Il Ponticello
2/F Antel 2000 Building
121 Valero St., Salcedo Village
887-7168, 887-4998

A lot of people enjoy the music and Italian food served here. But the place could get really stuffy with all the smoke hardly being ventilated out.

IO Family KTV
3/F Jupiter Place
136-138 Jupiter St., Bel-Air
895-5940 to 41

Scream *baduy* if you want, but for some reason, more and more people have been trooping to karaoke places nowadays. Just in case you don't know, these places serve food and drinks aside from the complete menu of songs.

Pier One
The Fort

Fresh air + the different ambience + great food = one great night out.

Seven-Eight Orange
7480 Makati Ave.
899-6052

A big dark box with a great up-vibe, Orange boasts of the city's best DJs and theme nights to satisfy your dance obsession.

Shiraz Bistro and Wine Lounge
107 Perea St.
G/F B Palisades Building, Legaspi Village

Very pricey but it serves great wines and food. It plays cozy lounge music for those who want to relax and unwind after a field day in hell.

Venezia Bar
Glorietta, G/F Glorietta 2
Ayala Center
892-8303, 892-8304

Rub elbows with socialites, celebrities, commercial models, and the who's who in the city. If you've frequented the place and they know you, you'd be treated very well.

Wasabi Bistro & Sake Bar
The Olympia Building
7912 Makati Ave. corner Santo Tomas Street,
840-4223, 752-0632, 892-3707 to 08

The Japanese ambience lends an unusual tone to the Makati scene. The music is jazzy and laid back. For those who want something different without having to suffer busted eardrums, this is definitely the place for you.

Wherelse?
Hotel Inter-Continental
1 Ayala Ave.
815-9711, 845-1628 to 30, 845-1732, 845-1629

Many people come here because of the versatility and the dynamism it offers. Wherelse? has a different working theme for each day of the week—try R&B/hip-hop on Wednesdays, Oasis Chill-out nights on Fridays, and Rush on Saturdays. *Margot C. Tan*

Ortigas

Watering Hole

This is the place for celebrity-spotting and weekend band-watching.

Tequila Joe's

An Ortigas yuppie haven, TJ's never fails to quench our thirst for mouth-watering popcorn shrimps, quesadillas and the Tower of Power.

Friends at the Square

With its Wednesday acoustic jam and celebrity performers alternating on its intimate stage, Friends at the Square is the perfect place for young urbanites to meet and match.

8th Day

The owners say that God partied on the 8th day. Maybe He did, in this place that fuses good food and hot bands.

The Mega Strip

With the hodge podge of Kitchen, SBC and the soon-to-open Cibo, Piadina and more, the Ortigas sleeping giant night strip will wake up to a better and more happening nocturnal set.

Baguio

Café San Luis
Off Session Road

What started as a coffee shop has now turned into one of the coolest nightspots in Baguio. Home to Northwind and other local Baguio bands, Café San Luis is homey, comfy and every inch groovy—perfect for a laid-back nightout.

Shadow
5/F Concorde Hotel

The ultimate hangout for high school and college kids in Baguio, this bar offers a dance area for the energetic and a cozy lounge area for those who want to just sit around and drink.

18 B.C.
Legarda Road

Even at 3 a.m., this place is still a-l-i-v-e. Well-lit and comfortable despite the big crowd, 18 B.C. is perfect for a nightcap.

Part I

Here's where to go for a night of fun and excitement in the Philippines, wherever and whoever you are

Libis

Praia de Ipanema
Eastwood City

A chill-out place with jazzy, dream sounds early at night and a mix of Latin, dance and fiesta (Latin disco) music late at night. Yuppies hang out here to enjoy the European favorites like its famous salpicao, *paella* and *lengua*.

Amoeba
Eastwood City

It's a café with a CD store, flower shop and a bookstore in one! You can buy, sell and even trade CDs, books and magazines. You can have a non-alcoholic music fest while reading your favorite magazine.

Po Na Na
Along C-5

The cozy Moroccan-inspired interiors are transformed into a hot party venue late at night with loud techno, trance and dance music.

Mazzo
Along C-5

The latest addition to Libis's dance bar scene, Mazzo exudes a Moroccan flair similar to its upstairs neighbor Po Na Na.

Culture Club
C5

This is a cavernous club in the middle of the cramped C-5 area. Wednesdays are popular because of DJ John Robinson's set as well as semi-regular guest DJs from Groove Nation.

Bargo
Eastwood City

This is a haven for young sports lovers. What makes it a "happening" place? Its TV sets are programmed to your favorite sports games. It also has a number of billiard tables and darts boards.

Pier One
C-5

One of the pioneers of the Libis nightlife, Pier One offers Pinoy food favorites. Enjoy drinking under the stars. *Maria Celeste B. Gomez*

Cavite

Café Marcello
Imus, Cavite

After getting stuffed with the place's special steaks, chops and seafood, you may go upstairs and chill out with the local bands that plays there every Fridays and Saturday nights.

Purple Ostrich
Kawit, Cavite

Already gaining recognition as one of the best alternative nightspots outside of Metro Manila, this safari-themed nightspot is a bar, café, disco and theater in one. One of the specialties of the house is ostrich meat. Groove to the rhythmic samba salsa music on weeknights and jam with the live bands of Fridays.

Q4YA
Cavite City

Q4YA has two floors with billiard tables for the pool fanatics and posh chairs for the spectators. Enjoy the band performances at the parking lot, too.

Super Speed
Dasmariñas

Here's another hub for billiard lovers. It gets too smoky sometimes, though.

Take 9 Bar and Billiards
Silang

This billiards hall now boasts of a well-ventilated and spacious bar.

Davao

The Venue

Davao City's version of the Mega and Powerplant strip. This compound of bars and restaurants has seats for al fresco dining, as well as a video wall and a DJ booth for some great entertainment. The Venue bar itself is a spacious two-floor club with a large dancing area and more than 20 billiard tables.

Jason Doplito

Ca'Million
G-2 LandCo Pacific Building, Pryce Business Park, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada

Ca'Million café opened to the people of Davao just last August, but it is fast becoming the favorite hangout of the hip Davao crowd. Ca'Million is a regular café by day; it serves great Italian fare like sumptuous pastas and pizzas, plus mouth-watering pastries you wouldn't find anywhere else. By night (and through the wee hours of the morning), it transforms into a warm and cozy pre- and post-clubbing hangout. *Mariless Villamar*

Tagaytay

One Bagger Café and Restaurant
Sungay East, West Iruhin, Tagaytay City

A cozy dining place with rustic interiors, it is a place where people can jam with live bands during Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Its Ginger Bagger and Plumb Bob Fritters makes the place worth the trip. *Ronald Lester Leyva and Anne Luisa E. Villarico*

Las Piñas

22nd St.

A comedy bar, its stand-up comedians can really have the audience in stitches. But some of the punch lines may get offensive.

La Comedia

More subdued than 22nd St., the comedians in this bar practice tact and control.

Ronald Lester Leyva

Antipolo/Cainta

Padi's Point

Sumulong Highway owes its fame to the original branch of this renowned bar and restaurant. Away from the hustle and bustle of Manila city life, Padi's Point provides couples and *barkada* with the perfect view of a sprinkle of city lights below and a field of stars above.

Kelly Heights

Also located at the heart of Sumulong Highway, Kelly Heights boasts of three bars—Cloud 9, Overlooking and The Cliff. At the foot of Kelly Heights is The Cliff, while Overlooking is found midway from The Cliff to Cloud 9. Cloud 9 occupies the topmost area and provides a breathtaking view of Metro Manila: one can see the lights of Naia's runway winking.

Sound Stage

In contrast with the tranquil feel that Sumulong Highway night spots have to offer, Sound Stage near Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta showcases both established and up-and-coming bands, assaulting both the electronic speakers and the audience's eardrums as well.

Sunflowers

Also managed by Archie Rodriguez, the man behind T.G.I. Friday's, Italianni's and Tequila Joe's, Sunflowers All-Day Diner lights up the Brick Road, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall 24 hours a day with its American-diner type of gastronomic experience.

Club Sundance

Climbing the stairs from Sunflowers to Club Sundance will burn a fraction of the calories that have accumulated after a hearty meal at Sunflowers. But dancing the night away at the Club will probably get one's appetite going again because the phantasmagoric lights and sounds that Wopsy Zamora provides the club are simply exhilarating.

Christine May D. Icamina

Boracay

Cocomangas Hotel & Beach Resort

Take the "Still standing after 15" (15 shots of tequila, that is) challenge and let's hope you get your name on that little plaque. Your trip to Boracay would not be complete without trying the resort's famous Jam Jars.

Beachcomber Bar Disco & Restaurant

Boracay nights are never quiet, what with Beachcomber's loud music and bright lights. The Beachcomber Mudslide (vodka and Kahlua with flavored ice cream) is a big hit.

Bom Bom

What used to be the bar with no name, Bom Bom is famous for artists who play to the delight of their mostly foreign audience. Bob Marley would have loved this bar.

Hey Jude
D' Mall

Hey Jude is popular for its cosmopolitan ambiance and cool music provided by guest DJs. Their pizzas are pretty good, too.

Cebu

Block OneSeven
Crossroads Mall
Banilad, Cebu City

Home to some of Cebu's popular DJs, Block OneSeven is ideal for night-owls who never run out of energy.

Club Fuel
CCTC Cebu City

This fiery-red club is ideal for party animals. Techno music, high energy, a hip crowd—what more can a night-owl ask for?

High Life
Crossroads Mall
Banilad, Cebu City

Great bands, friendly people—this place is a must-party-stop if you're in Cebu for a night of fun.

Mi Vida
Ayala Center Cebu

The Latino-inspired place has more than just its exotic ambience to offer. Possibly the hippest place in Cebu now, people have been raving about it endlessly. "It's like partying in Ibiza and the dare of the ledge is something," Orly of the Sunstar Cebu newspaper said.

Mr. A

Mr. A is another place where you can enjoy Cebu's magnificent view while enjoying drinks and food. Their melt-in-your-mouth *chicharon bulaklak* is an absolute must.

Ratsky's
Ayala Center Cebu

The famous performers' venue has invaded Cebu. Despite the huge area, Cebuanos seem to have no problems filling it up.

Soap
CCTC Cebu City

This chill-out bar's purple and blue interiors are to die for. If that's not good enough, try their tiramisu.

Tops

If you're not into dancing and crowded bars, Tops, with its breath-taking view, may just be the thing for you.

The Village
CCTC Cebu City

This is a one-stop place. Everything you want on a night-out is there—good restaurants, energy-filled clubs and chill-out bars.

Vudu
Crossroads Mall
Banilad, Cebu City

Eye candy galore. Vudu is another good place for hanging out with your friends. You'll never run out of cuties to make goo-goo eyes at.

Yo! Latino
The Village
CCTC Cebu City

Good Latin music, great food. The Lemon Grass Chicken is a must.

Zero Below
1142 A.S. Fortuna Road
Mandaue City

Don't be surprised to see people still partying in Zero Below at 6 a.m. It's often the last stop of Cebu's "vampires." Aside from the great music spun by Cebu's hottest DJs, there's another reason people keep coming back—the ZB wings.

Malate

Batavia
J. Nakpil

Traditional Indonesian fare transports revelers to Bali when it was still a Dutch colony.

Common Ground
J. Nakpil

Now bigger and better, its upstairs bar and club quenches the Malate younger set's thirst for dance tunes.

Insomnia
J. Nakpil

Never sleep—drink and dance in this happening nocturnal nite spot that pioneered Malate's Nakpil strip sensation.

Fidel
Maria Orosa

Stylized French Moroccan accents, loungy, elegant cozy well lit, comfort food

Joy
Maria Orosa

A bar for hip, happy people with weekend drag shows, Joy has cornered the up market clientele with its unpredictable yet unpretentiously fun vibe.

Raj
Maria Orosa

East Asia magazine in Singapore reported it as one of Asia's hip new spots—we agree. Its mix of delectable Indian fare and modern, opulent interiors makes for a great hang out spot.

Republic of Malate
M.H. del Pilar

With everything under its roof—a bar, a performing and dance club and restaurant, even a billiards room—this is how Manila's night spots should be.

Mint
Maria Orosa

Weekends are packed to the streets with mostly male crowd. Another main reason why Maria Orosa has gained a cult happier-than-thou following.

Havana
Adriatico Circle

Rhythm and mojitos compete for your attention in this bar popular for expatriates and locals alike. Weekends have Puro Ritmo making you groove in Latin and samba beats—Ole!

Komiks
Maria Orosa

Popular for good desserts like their fruit chocolate fondue—savoring your sweets in a comical environment.

Hidenori
J. Nakpil

The former Verve is now a bar and dance club that serves techno on its menu.

Politixx
Adriatico Circle

The county's premier drag venue popular for its weekly revues, expect an all-nonsense all-frills and fuss good time with Politixx residents. *Tim Yap*

Timog/Tomas Morato

Burgoo's

Burgoo's has got to be the easiest to find because of its bright lights and American setting. Among the house specialties are grilled porkchops, seafood linguini and linguini pasta.

Packo's Grill Bar and Restaurant

This Mediterranean-inspired hangout's bestseller is Crispy Binagoongang Baboy. From 10 p.m. onward, it dims the lights to give way to disco and drinking.

Annabel's

For fine dining and maybe first dates, Annabel's is the place. Treat your date to a variety of Spanish dishes including *paella*, *lengua*, *callos*, steaks and fish with romantic candles and an elegant set-up to boot.

Quattro

Quattro is set garden-style for open-air ambience. A perfect place for working men and women who just want to get drunk.

Congo Grill

With its jungle motif and its jolly and very accommodating staff, you'll feel very welcomed here. House specialties include *crispy pata*, congo steak, tuna belly and *panga* and grilled squid.

Friday's

Who hasn't been to Friday's?

L.A. Café

Their spinach pizza and *chicharon bulaklak* are great treats for the palate.

Decades

The Decades crowd even spills out to the streets on weekends. They can't get enough of the music and the ambience.

Phenomena

Phenomena is home to a younger crowd that enjoys its spacious area, upbeat music and mixture of wild drinks. *Dexter R. Matilla*

Queens of the night

BY NIÑO MARK M. SABLAN
2bU! Correspondent

CONTRARY to the very popular belief, not all gay men go partner-hunting the moment night falls. Just like the straights, homosexual men also go out and enjoy their evenings with family, friends, lovers, schoolmates or officemates. Here are some types of gay night creatures and their ideas of fun.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Scorer—Knowledgeable about all the hotspots and upcoming events in the metropolis, the scorer parades himself like a Selecta Ice Cream cart, spotting willing victims while hoping to be spotted by other predators. His prime purpose is to establish a connection with other men and eventually develop a relationship with them, be it long term or a one-night stand. The scorer is a *suki* of all the single bars and has at least 10 pick-up lines memorized in case of emergency.

The discreet one—His main objective in going out is not necessarily to get laid or hooked up with a possible lover. It's just secondary. So if eyes lock and sparks fly when he's simply enjoying flipping through a book at PowerBooks, sipping coffee at Seattle's Best or ice skating at SM Megamall/Southmall, consider it hitting two birds with one stone.

Homebuddy—For the type who'd rather be happily stuck inside his house, a typical Saturday (or any day of the week) sees him glued to the tube with the remote control epoxied to his hand, watching snippets of "Underage" (care of Cinemaone), "Master Showman," F and FTV's endless fashion shows. On the side, he reads something from his growing collection of yet-to-be-read gay books ("Ladlad" 1 and 2, "X-Factor," "Closet Queries," etc.) while waiting for his oatmeal raisin cookies to turn golden brown. When boredom pays him a visit, he turns to the phone for comfort.

The gay life is more varied than you homophobically expect

Diva-Licious—The diva's idea of a splendid night is one bursting with laughter and high notes, whether they be his or others'. Sing-along bars are a favorite, what with all their hilarious hosts, good food and entertaining numbers. The Library, 22nd Street, etc. have comedic talents and a couple of cuties do go there most of the time. For those who enjoy vocal gymnastics and getting attention for it, the stage is always waiting, plus the merciless hosts, who are itching to expose their wrath on whoever decides to step onstage. Others desperate for attention may try those videoke booths that record your very own CDs or cassettes (with you on the cover!). Then again, one can just stay in the comforts of his home and pester the whole neighborhood with the help of Vid-OK ("Araw-Gabi, Sing-Along Party!"), which is fast turning into yet another music video channel.

Geek-ish gay—Not necessarily bespectacled and clad in Billie Jean pants and a checkered long-sleeved polo buttoned till the neck, the geekish gay locks himself in his computer room (or darts toward the nearest Internet café) and clicks the mouse till the wee hours of the morning. He visits virtually any website he desires, which may include some gay porn sites. He also allots at least an hour for chatting over at gaymanila or discreetguys. Ideally, he gets to exchange numbers with some, arrange an eyeball and put an end to his geeky gay nightlife.

Creator—The productive gay has a lot of commitments all planned out for his weekend (or weekday). A cutting-edge flick at some art filmfest. An ESP training/seminar. A Cynthia Alexander performance at the Republic of Malate. Jamming with his straight and gay acid jazz bandmates. When everything is through, the little room he himself designed welcomes him back. With some beautiful music playing on the background (like Bjork's), he passionately continues an unfinished painting, sketches designs inspired by Metro Aides and writes the last few lines for his future fiction entry for next year's Palanca.

Homosexxxual—This is the stereotypical gay most bigots know, the one who goes to strip clubs to ogle at buffed men, the "regular" moviegoer who frequents the comfort room, the one who sits at the backseat of Tas Trans buses, and enjoys a pornfest at home.

And then we have the gay one in love who prefers to sleep the night away.

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

With friends like these . . .

September Mahino & Carlos Garchitorena

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I have a group of friends that I like to hang out with. I enjoy their company a lot, but they take advantage of me sometimes.

For example, they would go to our house and look for me on weekends. Even if my mother or sister tells them that I'm still asleep they will hang around, leaving my mother and sister no choice but to wake me up. Sometimes they make me do their projects even if I'm busy doing my own projects and plates.

I find it hard to say no to them because I don't want them to think or say that I am a bad friend. I don't want to hear remarks from them or from other people about how selfish I am or something. I like their company, but I need tips on how to be more assertive and to be more forceful in refusing some of their requests.

MARIE

Your problem is so complicated. I'm glad you wrote to us. You obviously suffer from the bloodsucker malady. Oh, but you are not the bloodsucker! No, no, no! That would be all wrong! And funny, wouldn't it?

No, Marie, the bloodsuckers are your friends. Your taste is just ridiculously poor. But why change when you've lived your whole life in a certain way? You could try changing your friends, but it would be too late to do that. The parasites have tasted blood and know where you live.

If those abhorrent losers were like some people I know, it would take more than a seminar to keep them away. Unless you went to a seminar on The Violent but Useful Applications of Hypnosis or perhaps a jujitsu class. Imagine the surprise on your pesky friends' face when you break their wrists then convince them through mind control that they hurt themselves accidentally. Hahaha! That would be so funny, you'll be telling that story to your grandkids for years.

But if you can't afford a seminar, there are plenty of things to do to drive those nasty pests away, and you can learn them all for P30. Go to the nearest video rental store and rent "Home Alone." You can learn many useful tricks that are nonlethal but temporarily debilitating. And the laughs they will elicit will make you forget all guilt. Superheated doorknobs—simple and effective (just inform the rest of your household... or not!). A pail and a bowling ball from any elevated position would be a smash hit, literally.

Be inventive, even when they are glued to your bed and won't budge. Having their car towed would be a classic, itching powder on the toilet seat would be purely avant-garde or, if you love animals, an attack dog with a "reliable leash" is as simple as 1-2-3, although training a parrot to go potty on command... on unwanted guests' heads is less likely to get you sued.

I wish I had your friends, my life would be so much more exciting. I would endlessly think of interesting ways to make an irritating wake-up call into a chance to set the tone for the rest of the day. Or maybe I'd just get out of bed earlier and go jogging... or get a job!

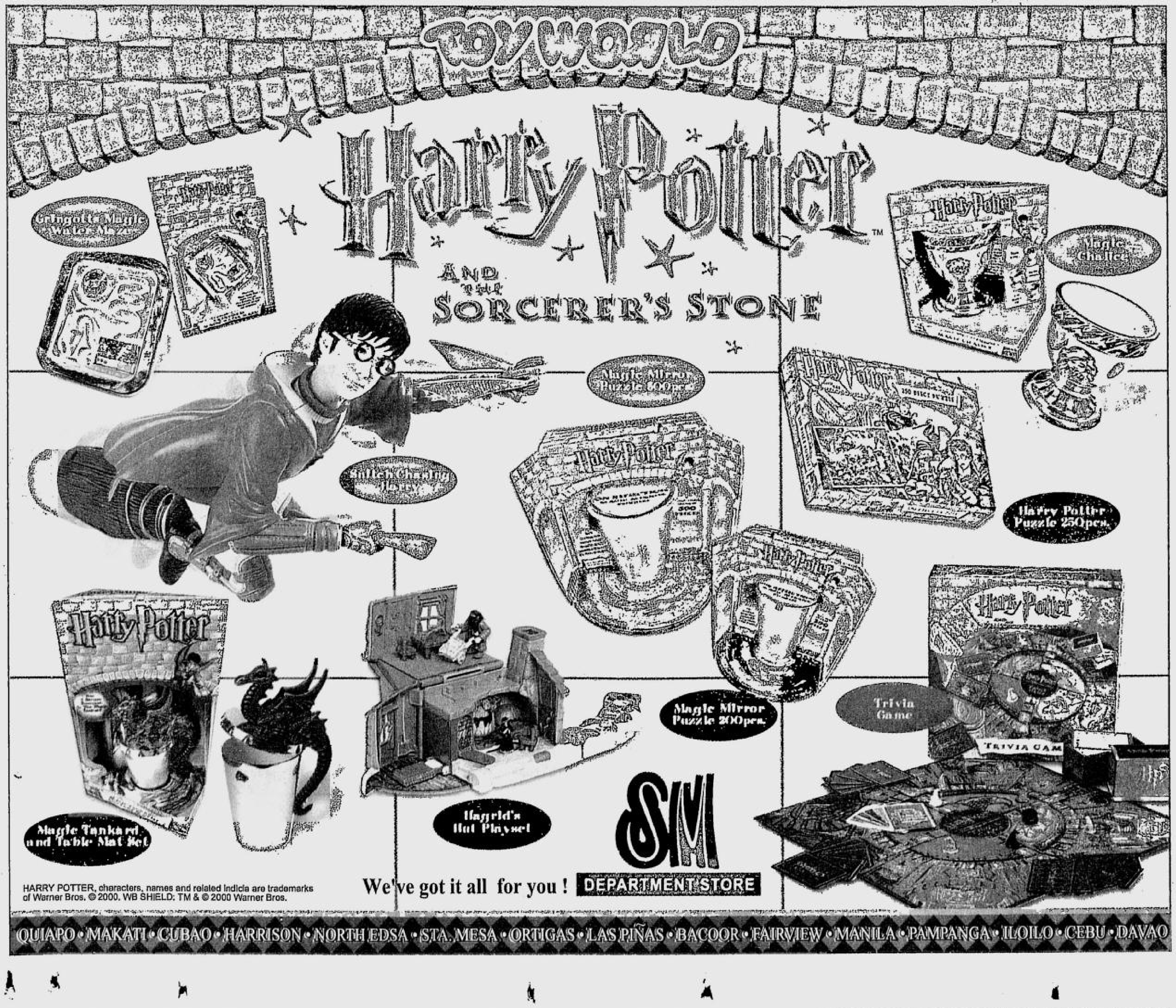
CALOY

The first step you have to take is to change your definition of a good friend. Being good doesn't translate into being a wimp, no matter what your friends tell or don't tell you. It wouldn't be easy to change what you've been used to for so long, but your friends have to know your life involves more than just them and their needs. And it's more important that you know *that* yourself.

To get more support for the new assertive you, tell your Mom and your sister as clearly as possible to never wake you up when you're getting your much-needed sleep during weekends, even if the Pope comes to see you. I'm surprised they don't tell your friends off, since they have a right to; it's your home anyway. They shouldn't even let the gang in when you're sleeping.

The difficulty you have in saying no to your friends may be more than just a need to be called a good friend. It could be that you have a problem saying no to a lot of things but you only notice it with your friends because they constantly bug you. I suggest you take seminars on self-assertion (though I don't know if there are any being held, sorry) or simply start hanging around people who don't take other people's crap. The more positive influences, the better it would be for you.

SEP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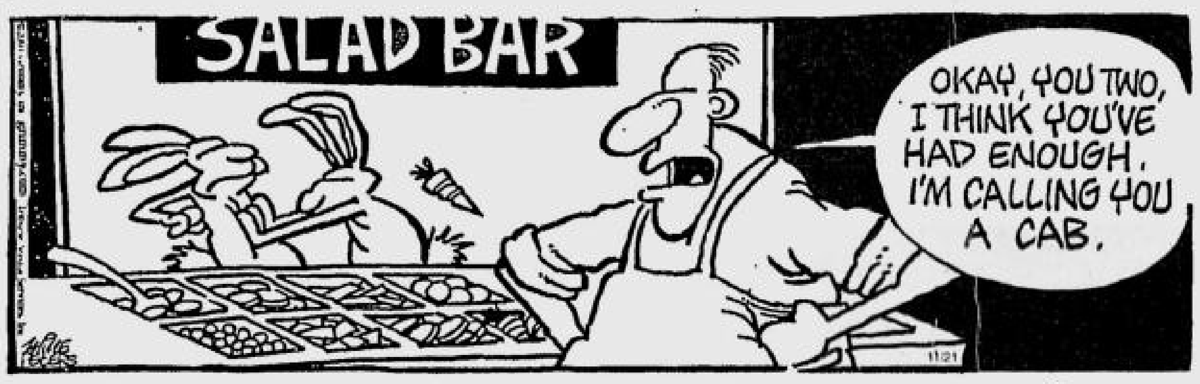
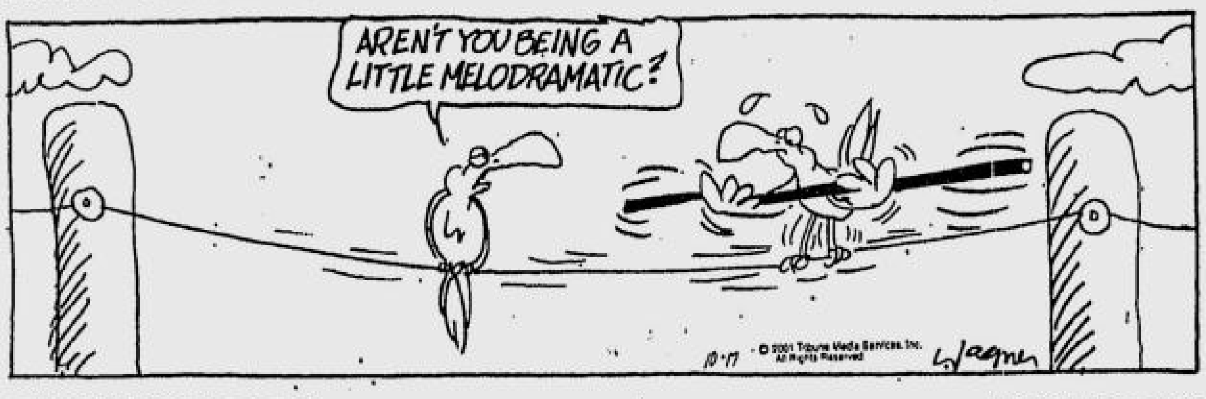
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


SALAD BAR
OKAY, YOU TWO, I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH. I'M CALLING YOU A CAB.
11/21

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE MELODRAMATIC?
10-17
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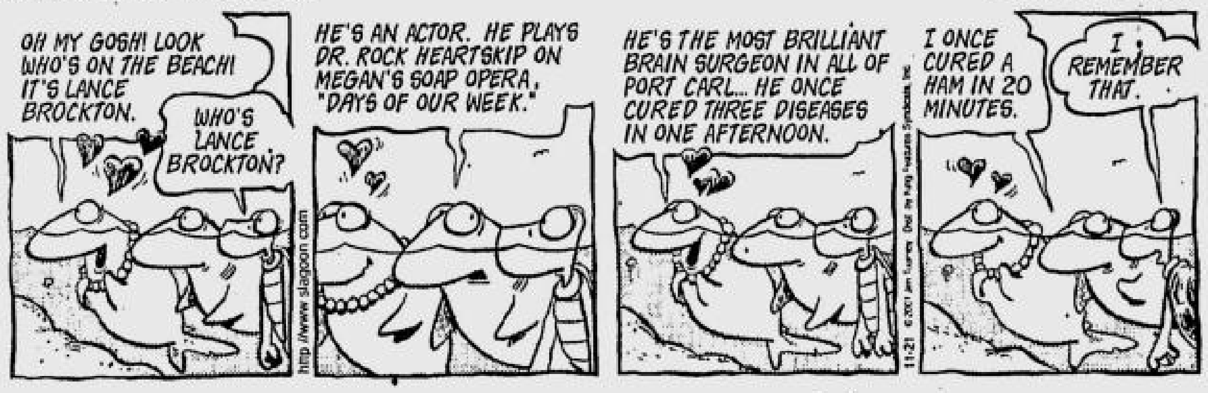
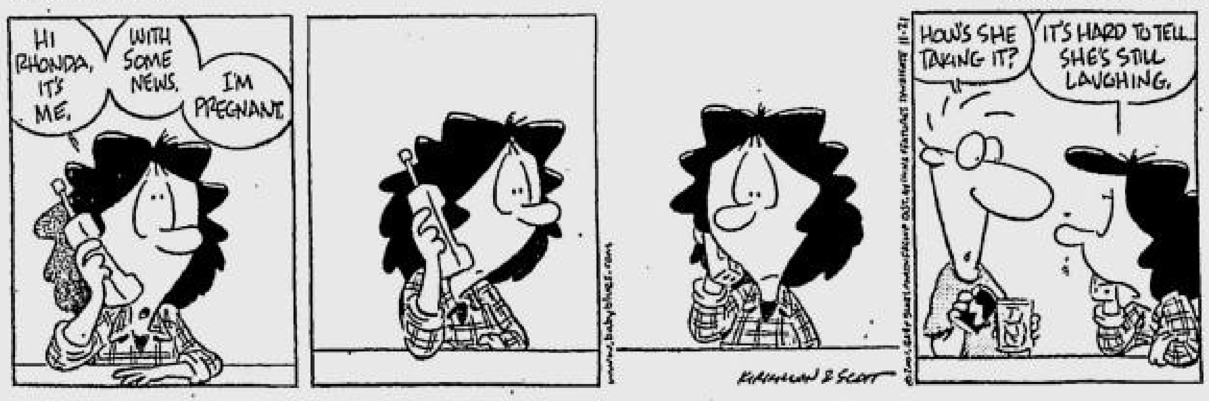
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


OH MY GOSH! LOOK WHO'S ON THE BEACH! IT'S LANCE BROCKTON.
WHO'S LANCE BROCKTON?
HE'S AN ACTOR. HE PLAYS DR. ROCK HEARTSKIP ON MEGAN'S SOAP OPERA, "DAYS OF OUR WEEK."
HE'S THE MOST BRILLIANT BRAIN SURGEON IN ALL OF PORT CARL... HE ONCE CURED THREE DISEASES IN ONE AFTERNOON.
I ONCE CURED A HAM IN 20 MINUTES.
I REMEMBER THAT.
http://www.slagoon.com
11-21

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HI RHONDA, IT'S ME.
WITH SOME NEWS.
I'M PREGNANT.
HOW'S SHE TAKING IT?
IT'S HARD TO TELL. SHE'S STILL LAUGHING.
www.babyblues.com
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
11-21

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Marlo Thomas, Goldie Hawn, Bjork, Harold Ramis, Ken Griffey Jr.
Happy Birthday: If you are willing to be flexible this year, you will go much further. Your enthusiasm and strength of mind enable you to surprise yourself with the amount you can get done and how well everything turns out. Individuals whom you have helped in the past will grant favors. Your numbers: 8, 13, 27, 32, 36, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take trips, meet people and discover exciting pastimes. Your perspective on work and your personal life will improve.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may be interested in more than one person. Be honest with yourself so that you don't make an emotional mistake. Weigh the pros and cons and decide based on both heart and head.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make it known that you are going to be busy chasing your dreams. The more you tell yourself that you are going to succeed, the better your chances become.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may have to look out for someone else today. If you have time, double-check your personal papers, which may need updating before the end of the year.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be rushed. Don't promise to spend time with a loved one if you know you'll be tied up all day. Expect to make extra money if you work hard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Small details will make a difference, so don't cut corners or allow a co-worker to lead you astray. Find out what you have to do and stick to it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You should be enjoying time with a loved one and nurturing your relationship. Make plans to travel to an exotic destination. Put your personal life first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may need to ask for help if someone has put a huge burden on you. Weigh what needs to be done and enlist people to get the job done. Your courage and determination will pay off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Speak your mind. Tell that harasser how you really feel. You'll feel much better even if this person does retaliate. Don't be shy. If you want to spend more time with a special person, make a commitment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't sit around dreaming. You can make money if you concentrate on producing domestic services or products. A small business on the side could turn out to be lucrative.

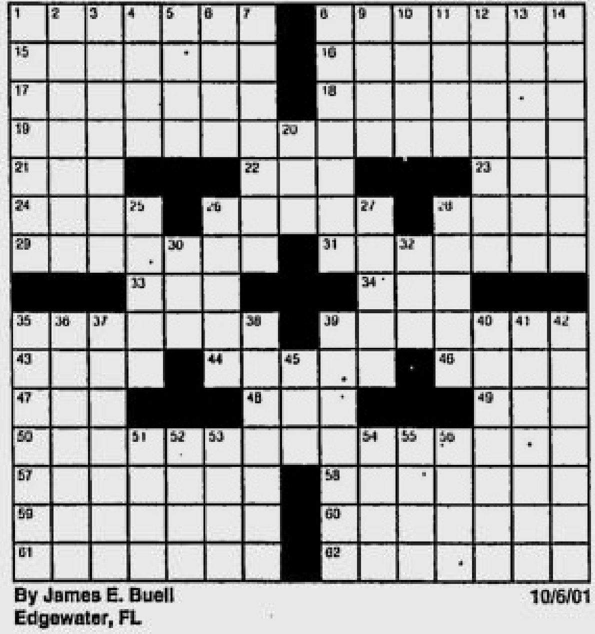
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider a weight-loss program or change your look and attitude. If you are positive, happy and carefree, you will attract more interest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful what you say as someone may be holding a grudge. Don't give anyone a chance to make you look bad. If you are quick to help others and quiet about your own life, you should avoid any unpleasantness.

Birthday Baby: You have a unique perspective. You will be relentless until you achieve what you set out to do. You are steadfast, loyal and generous.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
10/6/01

ACROSS
1 Biggest ape
8 Property manager
15 Means of access
16 Clip before the flick
17 Is a member
18 Unit of flight distance
19 Recaps events for a latecomer
21 Peak on Crete
22 Auto pioneer's initials
23 Bother persistently
24 Sisters
26 Aquarium favorite
28 Singer Feliciano
29 Become informed
31 Got hold of
33 __ de vie
34 "My Gal __"
35 Attacked from the air
39 Inorganic
43 Host before Carson
44 Scimitar's cousin
46 Chilean currency
47 Massachusetts cape
48 Amalgamation
49 Muscle spasm
50 Does skunk parenting?
57 Brushes off
58 Thermal unit
59 Server's environment
60 Sustenance
61 Total takes
62 Unbeatable foes

DOWN
1 Yakking
2 Late
3 Dependent
4 Fully versed about
5 Breathing organ
6 Supports for stools
7 Guaranteed
8 Fixed parts of electric motors
9 Middle of a minuet
10 Jug handles
11 Weakling
12 One who transfers property
13 Letting go
14 __ up (unearthed)
20 Indulged one
25 Utter oaths
26 False alternatives
27 Odin's milieu
28 Sweet syrupy drink
30 Lummox
32 Give the ax to
35 Granting clemency to
36 Woodland songbird
37 Happened upon
38 Twilled table linens
39 __ jumping bean
40 Hits the hay
41 Foolhardy
42 Keepsake cases
45 Dribble catcher
51 Disseminates
52 Aphrodite's child
53 Withered
54 Very strong wind
55 Slender
56 Scholarly volume

ANSWER ON MONDAY

S	H	A	M	■	M	I	M	E	■	S	P	A	D	E
H	E	L	I	■	A	S	O	R	■	O	R	I	E	L
A	L	A	N	■	C	A	R	N	I	V	O	R	E	S
H	O	M	O	P	H	O	N	E	S	■	M	Y	R	A
S	T	O	R	E	■	■	I	S	A	K	■	A	E	S
■	■	■	M	A	S	O	N	■	R	A	B	E	■	■
D	E	S	I	■	E	R	G	S	■	T	A	R	A	S
O	X	E	N	■	T	E	M	P	E	■	R	I	P	E
W	O	O	E	R	■	L	O	U	T	■	R	E	B	A
■	■	U	R	S	A	■	U	N	C	L	E	■	■	■
A	L	L	■	A	B	B	R	■	■	A	D	L	A	I
S	O	S	A	■	B	A	N	N	E	D	B	A	N	D
P	R	O	P	H	E	S	I	E	R	■	A	N	N	O
I	N	U	S	E	■	I	N	R	I	■	R	A	I	L
C	E	L	E	B	■	E	G	O	S	■	D	I	E	S

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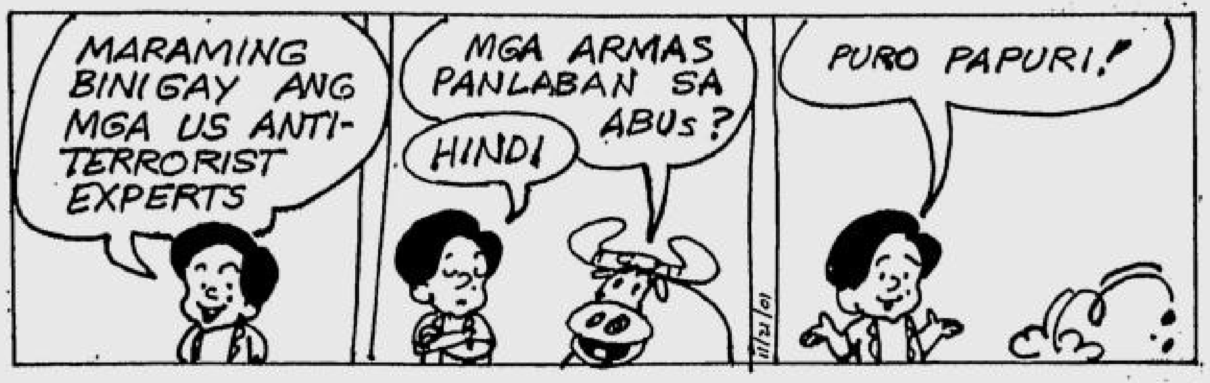
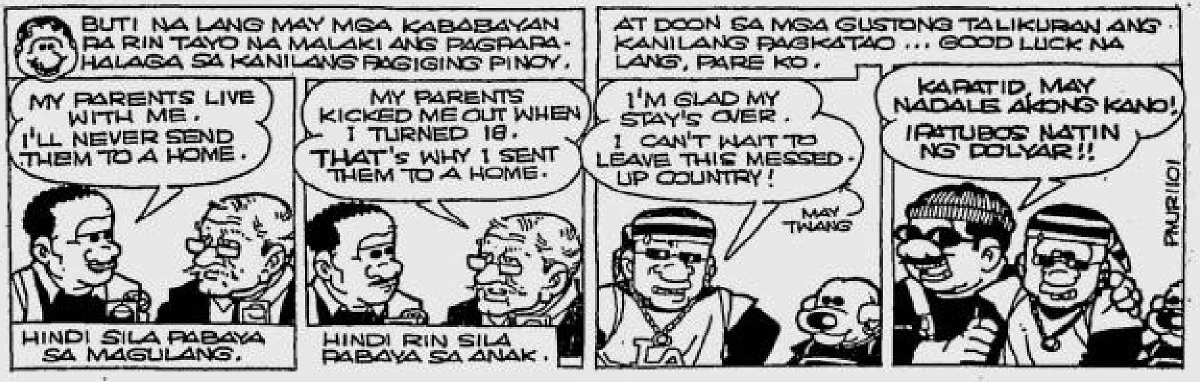
10/6/01

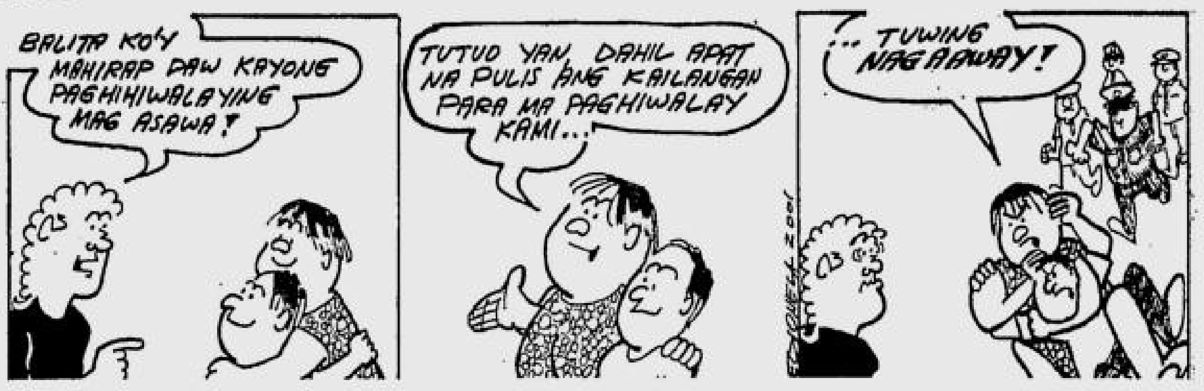
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MARAMING BINIGAY ANG MGA US ANTI-TERRORIST EXPERTS
MGA ARMAS PANLABAN SA ABUs?
HINDI
PURO PAPURI!
11/21/01

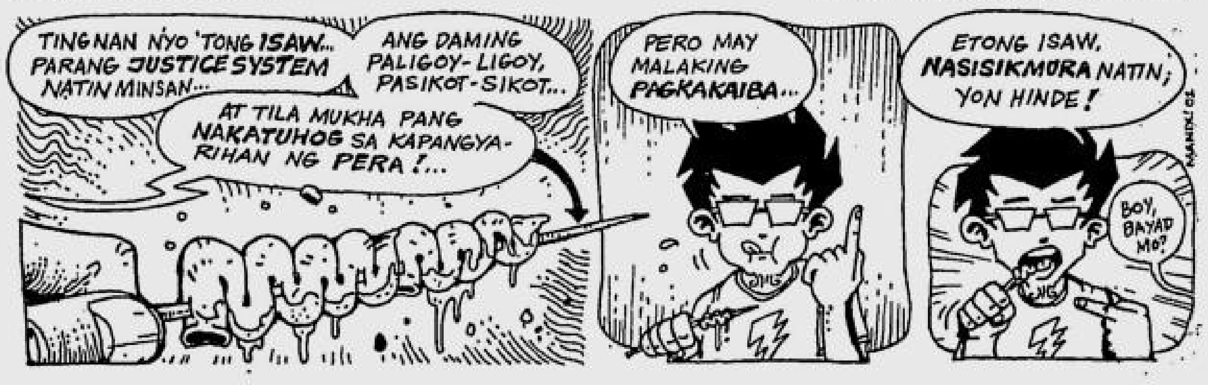
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


BUTI NA LANG MAY MGA KABABAYAN PA RIN TAYO NA MALAKI ANG PAGPAPAHALAGA SA KANILANG PAGIGING PINOY.
MY PARENTS LIVE WITH ME. I'LL NEVER SEND THEM TO A HOME.
MY PARENTS KICKED ME OUT WHEN I TURNED 18. THAT'S WHY I SENT THEM TO A HOME.
HINDI SILA PABAYA SA MAGULANG.
HINDI RIN SILA PABAYA SA ANAK.
AT DOON SA MGA GUSTONG TALIKURAN ANG KANILANG PAGKATAO ... GOOD LUCK NA LANG, PARE KO.
I'M GLAD MY STAY'S OVER. I CAN'T WAIT TO LEAVE THIS MESSED-UP COUNTRY!
MAY TWANG
KAPATID, MAY NADALE AKONG KANO! IPATUBOS NATIN NG DOLYAR!!
PMJR 11/01

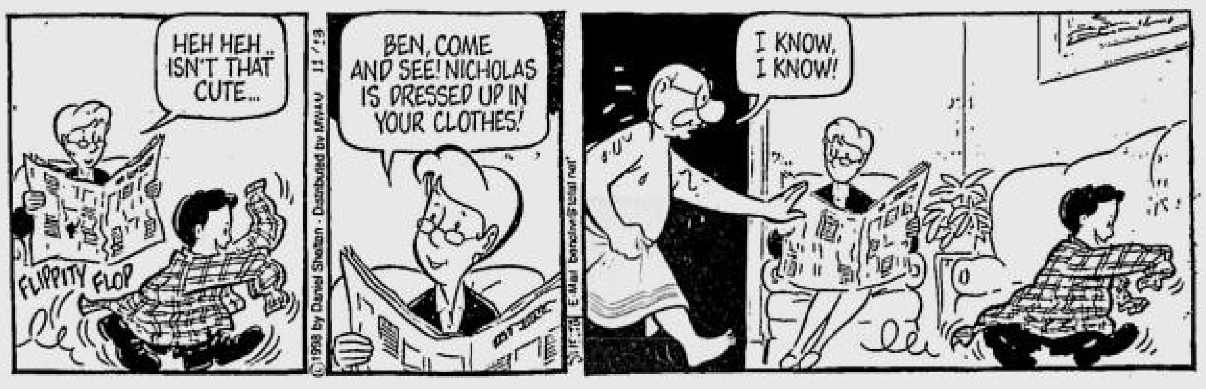
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


BALITA KO'Y MAHIRAP DAW KAYONG PAGHIHIWALAYING MAG ASAWA?
TUTUO YAN, DAHIL APAT NA PULIS ANG KAILANGAN PARA MA PAGHIWALAY KAMI...
...TUWING NAG AAWAY!
2001

GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


TINGNAN NYO 'TONG ISAW... PARANG JUSTICE SYSTEM NATIN MINSAN...
ANG DAMING PALIGOY-LIGOY, PASIKOT-SIKOT...
AT TILA MUKHA PANG NAKATUHOG SA KAPANGYARIHAN NG PERA!...
PERO MAY MALAKING PAGKAKAIBA...
ETONG ISAW, NASISIKMURA NATIN; YON HINDE!
BOY, BAYAD MO?
MANIX! 02

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEH HEH... ISN'T THAT CUTE...
FLIPPITY FLOP
BEN, COME AND SEE! NICHOLAS IS DRESSED UP IN YOUR CLOTHES!
I KNOW, I KNOW!
11-13
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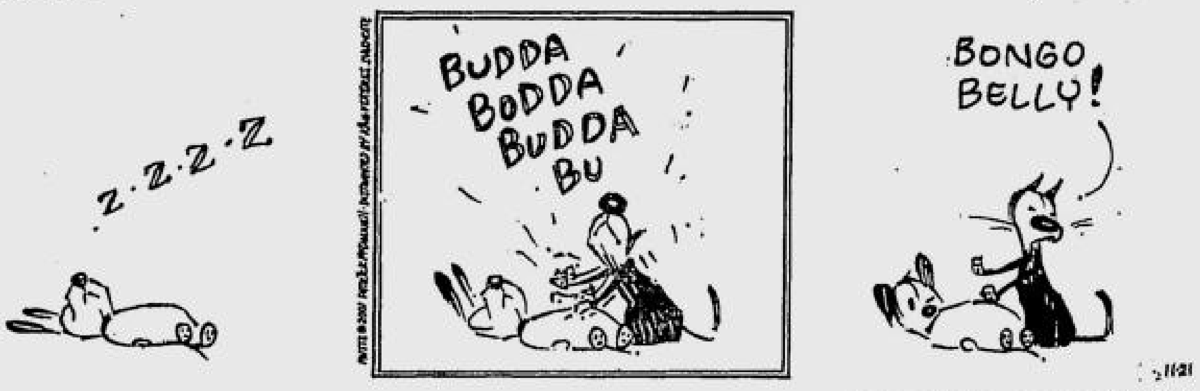
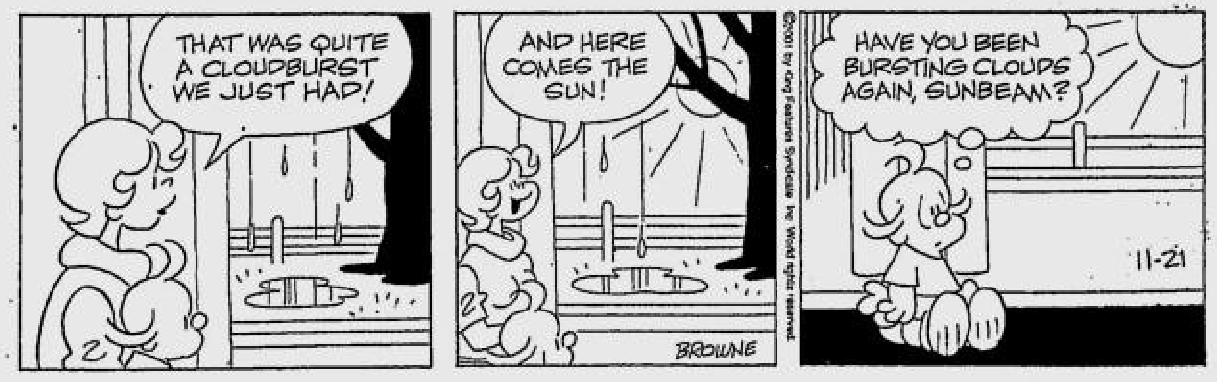
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Z·Z·Z·Z
BUDDA BODDA BUDDA BU
BONGO BELLY!
11-21

HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


THAT WAS QUITE A CLOUDBURST WE JUST HAD!
AND HERE COMES THE SUN!
BROWNE
HAVE YOU BEEN BURSTING CLOUDS AGAIN, SUNBEAM?
11-21
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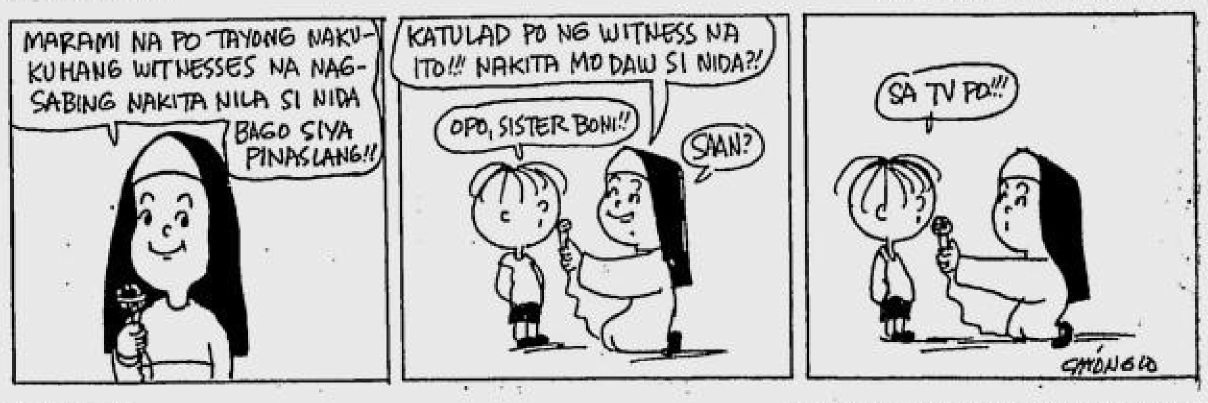
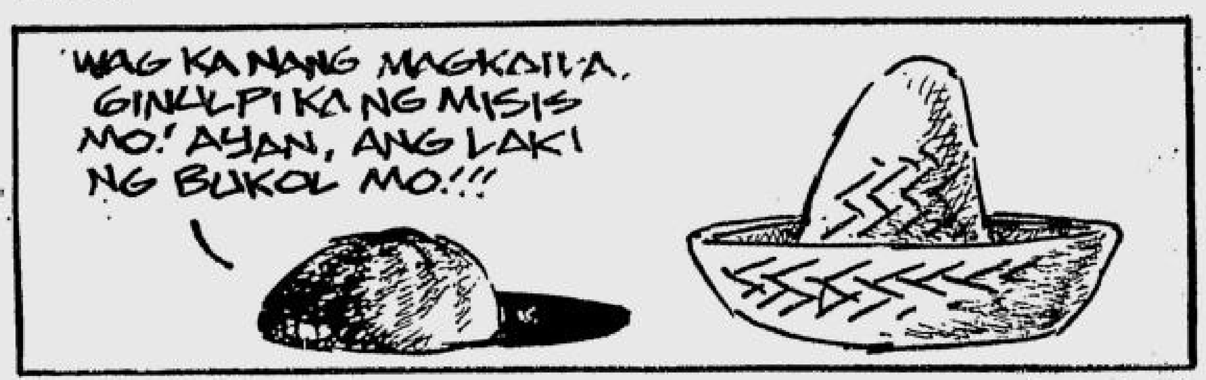
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MARAMI NA PO TAYONG NAKUKUHANG WITNESSES NA NAGSABING NAKITA NILA SI NIDA
BAGO SIYA PINASLANG!!
KATULAD PO NG WITNESS NA ITO!!! NAKITA MO DAW SI NIDA?!
OPO, SISTER BONI!!
SAAN?
SA TV PO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


WAG KA NANG MAGKAILA. GINULPI KA NG MISIS MO! AYAN, ANG LAKI NG BUKOL MO!!!

'Hot spots' leave her cold

By Melissa R. Lim
2bU! Correspondent

I AM 19 years old and I have no idea what goes on inside Po Na Na. And I thought Spin Crazy was a carnival ride.

I only know of Gotham in Malate because a friend told me about it. Although I have seen the outside of Seven-Eight Orange, that did not tell me much because the place has no windows. And I doubt I would have seen a thing even if there were windows. I can just imagine the cigarette smoke shrouding the whole place like a haze. Somehow places like this draw people who smoke like chimneys.

You could say I'm missing out. Does that make me a loser? Perhaps. My 15-year-old cousin goes out more often than I do, and I get most of my information on these places from her.

That may seem sad but actually the only reason I am curious about these places is because of my incessant need for trivia. Other than that, I see no purpose in knowing where the "hot spots" are since I don't really have plans of ever stepping foot inside any of those places.

No, I am not antisocial. I just prefer talking to close friends over coffee. I just don't see why I have to squeeze myself into a place so crowded you can almost smell what the person next to you had for dinner, when I can always go to a nice, quiet café and have a nice conversation with my friends without having to shout. I don't see why I have to stand and wait forever to be served when other places allow me to get a comfortable seat as soon as I get there, even if my indecision causes a minor mental torture for kind, attentive waiters.

I do not understand why people in Libis wait forever in the middle of the road for parking slots or why others would park as far as the Acropolis just to be able to go to Pier One. Sometimes, when my boyfriend and I pass Libis around midnight on weekends, I see a gazillion people just standing between cars that got there early enough to find parking spots. Standing? Whatever for?

Call me dense, but I just don't get it. What is it about smelling and rubbing against other people's sweat that keeps them going back for more? Why do these "social butterflies" stand in line for hours for a corner table that sits only four of their party of seven? What is so fun about sharing a square meter with three other people?

I've had enough bomb scares to last me a lifetime. I don't feel like tempting would-be bombers into blowing me up into oblivion, along with a huge sea of humanity breathing each other's carbon dioxide.

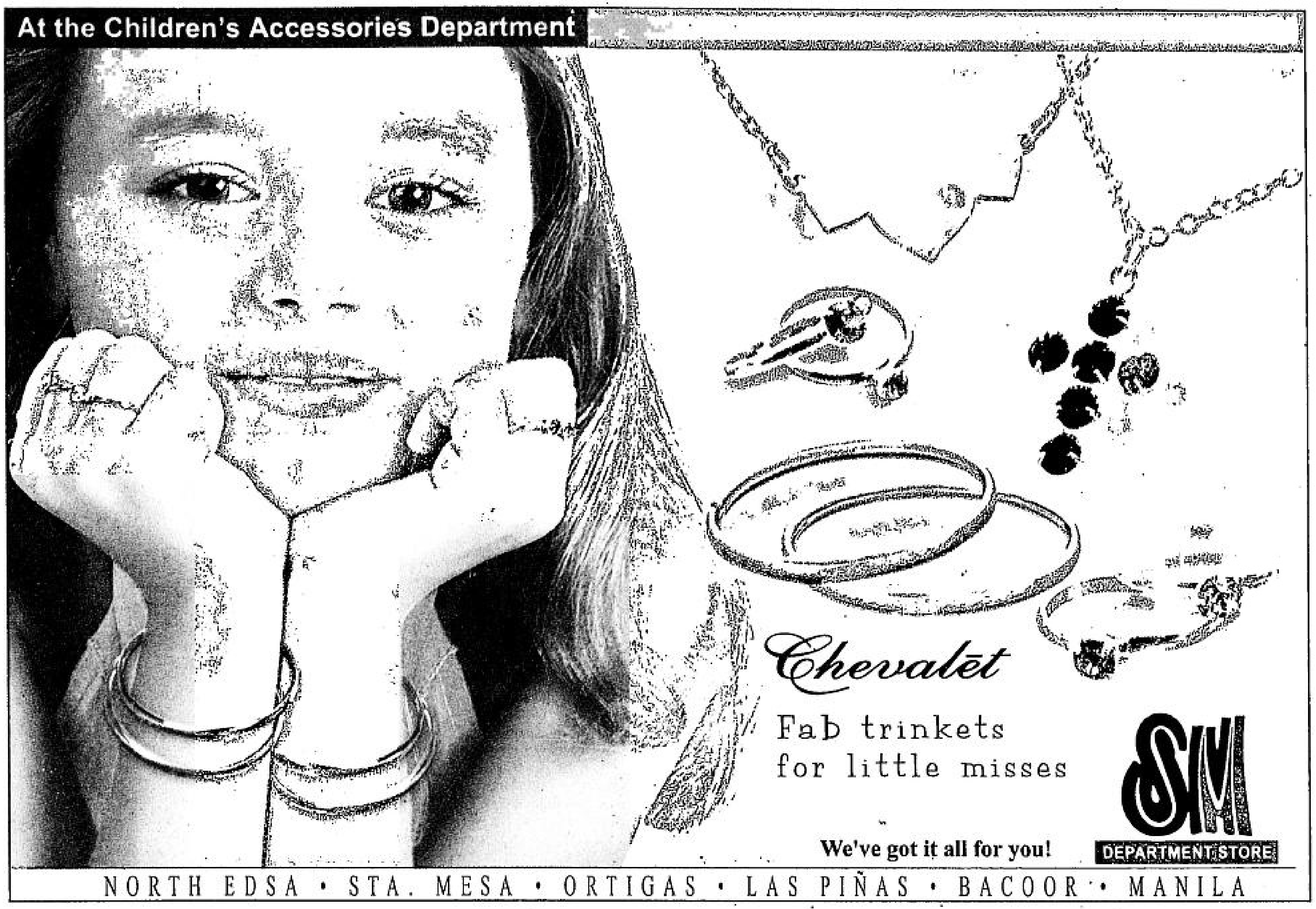
I have theories about why some people like being in that kind of mob. Firstly, most of them are single and looking to hook up (I said "most"). A male friend even suggested it is the "occasional bumping of body parts" that draws them back. Secondly, that these people want to see and be seen—your average human needs acknowledgement. They need to belong. Since hanging out at these places is considered cool, then people who go there automatically become cool. If you hang out with the right people long and often enough, you become cool by association. Coolness rubs off. But then again, so does sweat.

Of course, these are just the theories of an outsider, looking in. I don't really mean to offend anyone. I'm just stating things as I see them. We can all agree to disagree.

Maybe it is just me. Maybe I don't have the right to knock something I don't know squat about. After all, it's different strokes for different blokes. Whatever tickles your fancy and all that, right? And yes, maybe one of these days I will have to check out those popular places for myself—experience it all firsthand and, hopefully, better understand why people go through so much trouble for what seems to be nothing special.

But until that day when my friends would shove me—if not bodily carry me—through those glass doors that could lead to my demise (I swear I hyperventilate when stuck in crowded places), I will continue to be baffled and revel in being clueless.

E-mail the author at dementia@wildside.ph


At the Children's Accessories Department
Chevalēt
Fab trinkets for little misses
We've got it all for you!
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AT FLUTE. GP Reyes, Liaa Favis and Richie Santos

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

SMART SET. Jojit Alcazar, Domino Alfafara, DJ Paul Van Dyk, Nick Wilwayco and Teddy Dario at Oakwood

to be you to be young
2bU!

MODEL IN LOVE. Jasper Franzich and Eazel Don

The politics of PVD

Tim Yap

FOR **PAUL Van Dyk**, global superstar, electronic artist and DJ, Manila is lovelier the second time around. Considering it was held at the not-so-accessible Casino Filipino Amphitheater across the Naia, his NBK-produced and Smart-zed-sponsored gig last Friday was undoubtedly the biggest party of the year.

But it wasn't as smooth-sailing as how the party seemed. Early on in the night, at a private reception for the press hosted at Oakwood (where Paul was billeted), I learned from promoter **Teddy Dario** that the world's fourth best DJ was detained in Tokyo upon his arrival! Nope, not for drug or illegal weapon possession, but somebody (either his manager or the Japanese promoter) didn't give him complete documents, so when the immigration people were looking for a working visa, he couldn't present anything.

It wasn't an office, but a real cell, with bars where he was detained. "Next door, there were two Bin Laden lookalikes being interrogated," he said. He was able to make only two phone calls, one to Manila where he was to play the next day. So to cut the long story short, his Japan gig went pfft, and off to Manila he went, one day earlier than his scheduled visit.

MANOLET Dario after winning "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

"So what's the next big thing for the scene?" I asked, trying to spot the next trend. "Whatever you guys (media) play it to be," he said matter-of-factly. "Sometimes I don't get it how **Digweed** can be No. 1 compared to **Oakenfold**, who plays for more people. You just can't measure one against the other." I found his candor toward the same people who rank DJs refreshing. And to think this is how we Pinoys look up to them—who is No. 1, 2, 3 or whatever—while them, they don't give a care.

Despite his many awards and recognition, Van Dyk isn't happy with the label of "leader." "I wouldn't call myself a leader," he said. "Of course, a man making music is standing in publicity. But the main thing for me is music. I don't want to lead people; I want to tempt them, to create a new world for them, just for that very small moment when they are losing themselves in music. I want to inspire them."

Deep communication

Van Dyk even quoted **Steve Lawler**, who sensed the urgency to "bring the fun back to progressive music." Sometimes DJs engage in musical self-indulgence, not remembering that it is the deep communication between DJ and people that make a really great party.

That night, a great party indeed took place, with DJ **Manolet Dario** warming up the crowd before PVD's set. A long, long line stretched around the venue as excited partyphiles eagerly waited for their turn to enter the venue, a basement basketball court and amphitheater. Atop the bleachers, PVD's throne shone with lasers while the crowd grooved with his every beat. DJ **David Jacob** took over before sunrise, as throngs of clubbers—totaling about 4,000 the whole night—in different states of intoxication and revelry stayed on.

"In some parties, people would come and go—this one people really stayed," said DJ Manolet. "What a grand pre-holiday treat! We definitely needed this," exclaimed an elated partyphile.

Going back to our interview earlier that night, Van Dyk described his music. "I really don't like to give music a name; I don't like to categorize it," he said. "If I had to, I'd call it electronic dance music. For me, this is my language—a universal language, understood by people of every nation in every part of the world—I like it intense yet sincere."

CRASH COURSE. Jojo Silverio at the party

DANCE DUO. Models Jenny and Paul hanging out

PAUL Van Dyk before his set

So, to somebody who hasn't heard of the scene and party music, how do you explain all this? I asked him.

"Well, I'd invite them," he said smiling.

This week on the scene

Melissa Golangco Favis' first solo exhibit, "Melissa," runs until this week at Flute. The show features recent works in watercolor, pastel and pencil inspired by her travels around the world, from Chateau de la Riviere in Bordeaux, France to the streets of San Francisco, where she took up a second degree at Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. For inquiries, call Me-Ann at 724-6115 or 0917-8998929.

The Ad Congress opens today in Cebu. Aside from daily talks on target marketing, much awaited are the nightly parties happening in the Queen City of the South. Tonight, Smart hosts the "Wild on E!" Ad Congress opening party—I'll see you there!

Tonight also marks the birthday party of nightlife royalty **Louie Ysmaei**. Expect the fusion of old and new guard fully present at his birthday party at Venezia.

Next Wednesday, the 28th, **Amanda Griffin** opens her first Tabu swimsuit store at Glorietta, with a fund-raising fashion show at Dish in Rockwell. For Tabu tickets and invitations to this beautiful people gathering, call Isabel at 0919- 3566169 and 0917-9619964.

For now, let me catch my plane to Cebu.

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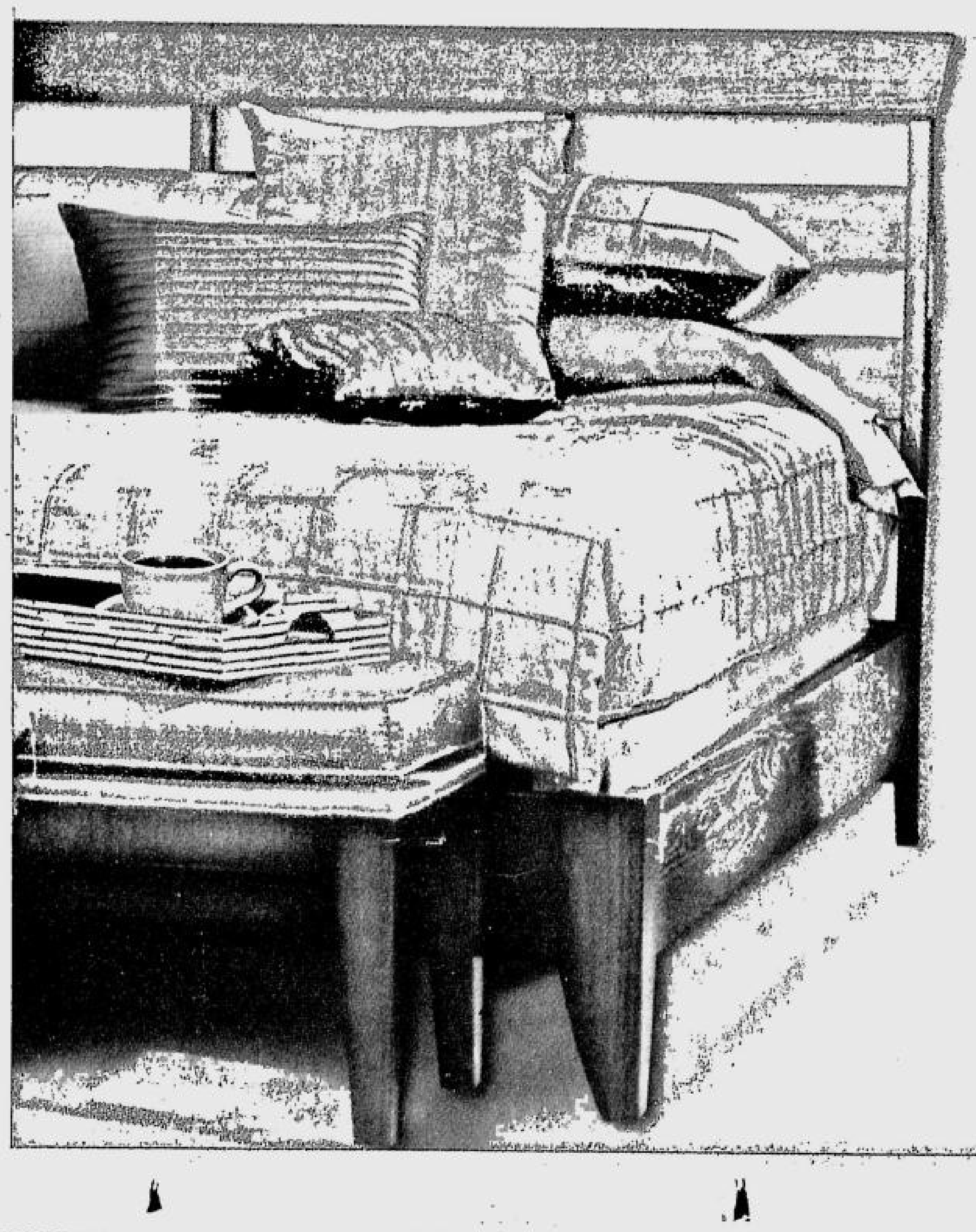

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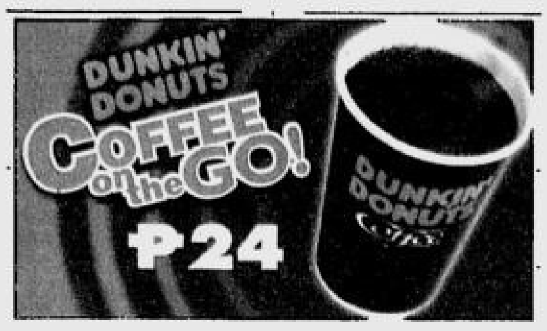

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LIFESTYLE

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How to pick up guys without really trying

THE GIRLS with their first batch of preys

Three female correspondents invade two of Manila's hottest nightspots. Armed with smooth pickup lines, they move in for the kill. But are your typical Pinoy night owls ready for them?

DARING. That could be one word to describe the experiment. And long overdue. Last year, the correspondents got pretty excited at the thought of being given the chance to pick up guys. They had the perfect excuse, after all: they're doing it for work. We had a list of eager volunteers. But for some reason, the project had to be pushed aside for a while. When we finally decided we were ready to do it, the old volunteers suddenly disappeared (got attached, suddenly turned conservative, etc.—you choose). We had a good plan on our hands—but no one to carry it out.

Enter Cher, Jules and Melissa to the rescue. Three girls whose hands suddenly shot up in the air during the last 2bU! meeting. They became the heroines in our little night of adventure (perpetrators, maybe, to some of the guys we encountered). We couldn't have had a better team.

The plan. Guys have gotten so used to going the rounds of bars, checking out chicks they dig and then attacking with finesse. How would they feel if the tables were turned? What would happen if girls approached them first? Would they get flustered? Would their egos swell? Would they be put off? Are young Filipino guys ready for more daring Pinays? This was what 2bU! wanted to find out.

The adventure. There were five of us. The three girls, I and Gary—driver/bodyguard/photographer/the guy constantly picked on. We were a pretty happy bunch—endless jokes, laughter, little snippets of sarcasm here and there—although the girls looked a bit nervous in the beginning. So was I, I have to admit. But we were ready, too. If any of the guys got fresh, I was ready to kill. Thankfully, there was no bloodbath. The night was pretty fun, actually. Stress-free, too. Then again, I was only watching.

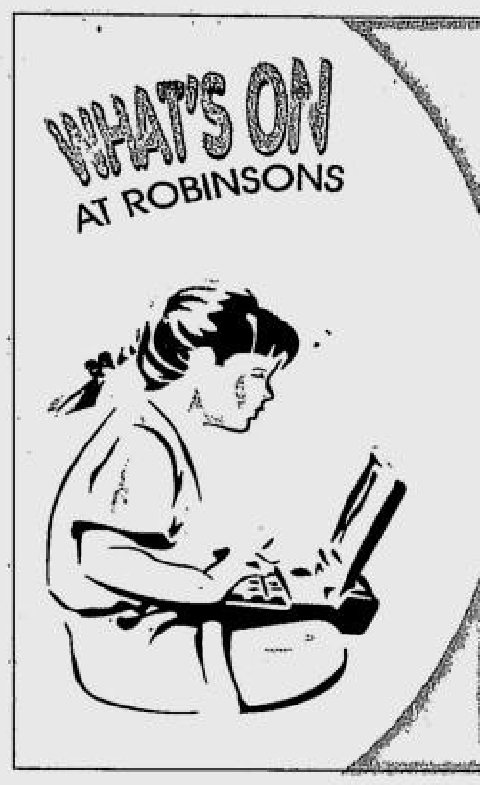
First things first. Before you go on reading the girls' adventures, a few important words. Do not skip this part. Let's be direct—implying takes too much space. No. 1, the bars we used in the story are nice, decent places. They are not pick-up joints. We do not wish to destroy the reputation of these hangouts just because of our little experiment. You go there to have fun with your friends and loved ones, drink a little, eat—not to hunt for flesh. That clear enough? Second, if you're female, young and still living with your parents (read: you should abide by the rules set by mom and dad), by no means should you do what these girls did. 2bU! is not giving you the license to pick up guys in bars—or elsewhere. Don't be like psycho criminals and say, "The devil (2bU!) made me do it." Blame it on Satan, don't blame it on us. The 2bU! office will refuse to entertain calls from furious parents.

Now you're all set.

Pam Pastor

HOW/p.D2

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS



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How to pick up guys without really trying

(From page D1)

Hard art

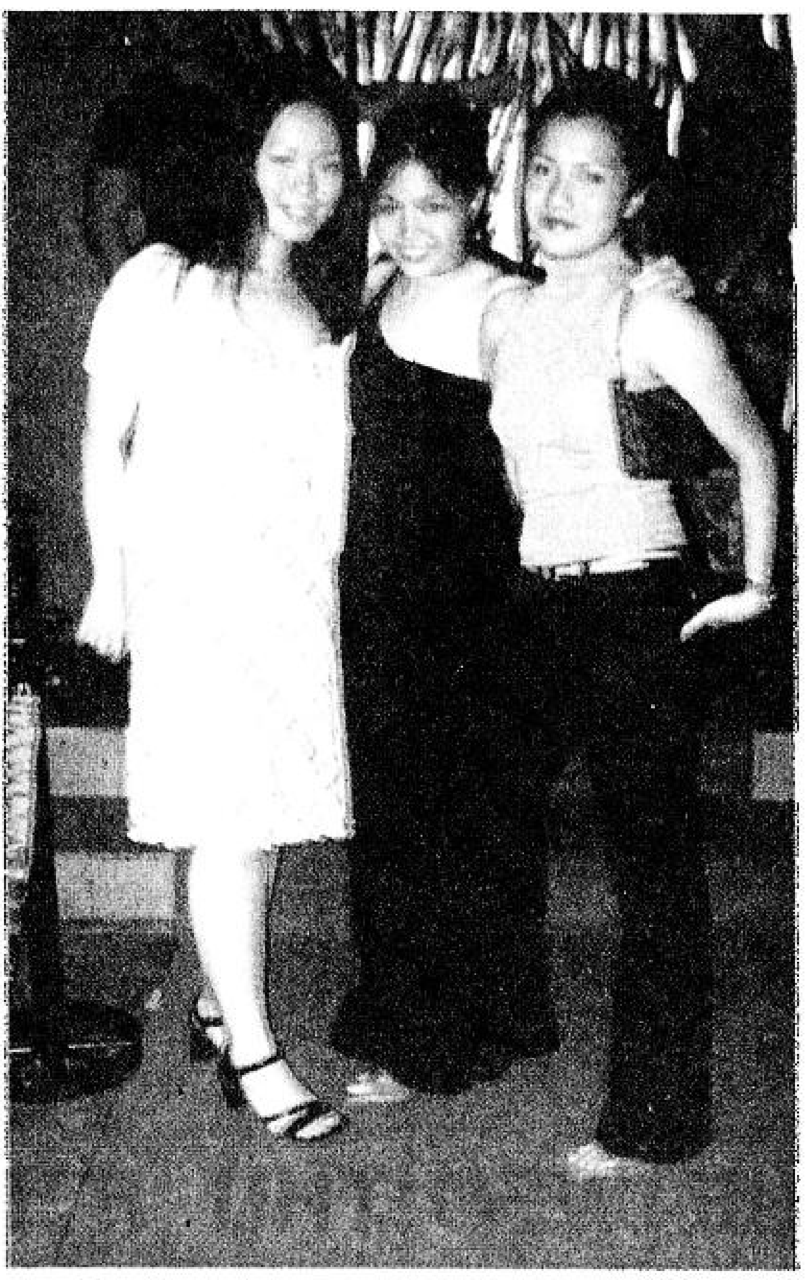
ON THE SURFACE we were cool, calm and collected. But inside we were going bonkers—at least I was.

Our first stop was Pier One in Fort Bonifacio. We all had drinks to bolster our confidence before spotting our first prospects: two guys a few tables away. Jules and I took on the task.

We moved closer to our preys and prayed that it would turn out okay. We approached them and paused before their table. Eye contact with the guys, check. Exchange of warm smiles, yes. It's now or never.

"Hi, I'm Melissa and this is my friend Jules. Can we join you?" I blurted. If the guys were shocked by our bold come-on, it didn't show. Without missing a beat, they stood up and graciously offered us seats. Wow, I thought, it's that easy? The guys, Jeck and Chris, were charming and well versed so our conversation flowed well. We swapped cell phone numbers and before we knew it, Pam was signaling us to go. It was time to hunt for new blood. But before we did that, we were faced with the daunting task of telling them about our little "experiment." Thank god the guys were cool with it, although afterward their smiles became less frequent.

After a while, I left our group and went with Cher to scan the place for fresh prospects. Finally, we set our sights on a group of guys who looked like they were having a blast. Without a moment's hesitation (I'm exaggerating, of course) we approached the group and bravely introduced ourselves. All conversations halted, necks craned at our direction and everyone at the table stared at us. The silence was frightening and suddenly, I was not feeling confident anymore. Then one of the guys stirred and offered us a smile and his seat. I began to breathe. Cher and I joined the group and we zeroed in on the two Spanish-looking guys seated right next to us, Rafa and Carlos, both junior college students at CSB. Chitchats and cell phone numbers were exchanged and after 45 minutes or so, we bade Rafa and Carlos farewell.



MELISSA, Cher and Jules all revved up for a night of adventure

Shortly, we went back and spilled the real reason we approached them. Rafa and Carlos were astounded. A friend of theirs started chuckling aloud while another hooted to the two guys, "And you thought you were hot!" In a while, Carlos half-jokingly remarked, "I knew there was something fishy about you two. You were too aggressive." They agreed to an interview, but refused to have their pictures taken for the paper.

Afterward, our group headed to Pravda. The place was packed and I saw a couple of people I knew. I was tempted to join them and call it quits with the assignment. It was past 2 a.m., after all, and I was dead tired. Also, it didn't help that all the guys there seemed taken. Luckily, we had a little assistance from Jules. "You see that tall guy standing alone, sipping a drink? That's a friend's friend. He's harmless. Good luck." And with Jules' blessing we approached Jay (not his real name), a basketball player from DLSU. His friend Luke joined us momentarily and eventually Cher was left with Jay while I was chatting with Luke. He offered to buy me a drink and our conversation lasted longer than I had expected. It was a pleasant surprise when we found out that we both live in the same village. Time flew by quickly until it was time to go, although Cher and I begged for a few more minutes to wrap things up. We told the guys that we had to leave for Pier One. They offered to go with us—that is, if it was okay.

Breaking the news was the part I dreaded. Jay took it pretty well. Luke, on the other hand, felt bad. "So, is your name really Melissa?" he asked me skeptically. Ouch. He thought the whole thing was a lie, which was totally understandable. Luke and Jay grudgingly agreed to have their pictures taken and announced that they were leaving right after. So much for the offer to accompany us to Pier One.

Most of the guys we met that night eventually got over the shock of being the guinea pigs of our experiment. I still have contact with some of them as of this writing. Although it was fun meeting them, I truly felt horrible when it came to confessing our ulterior motive. Yet come to think of it, I would never muster the courage to approach any of these guys on my own. And even after finding out how simple it could be with the appropriate smile and the right guy, I don't think I would ever do it. *Melissa Telan*

Reaping some enemies

I HAD never done anything of this sort before. I might have been a big party animal back in high school, either at clubs or crazy house parties on weekends with my IS and Euro-campus friends, but I was conservative (ahem) and would never make the first move. It's really easy for me to talk to guys—but to pick them up? No, thanks.

That Saturday night, I was pretty anxious. I had no idea how I was going to be able to pull this off. Jules, Melissa and I kept trying to device the perfect plan, but the moment our car halted in front of Pier One in Fort Bonifacio, we realized that we had come up with nothing.

The first thing we—the three of us, plus our hardcore supporters Pam and Gary—did was to get a table. Then I wandered off and ended up chitchatting with a bunch of friends I had bumped into. That was a lot of time lost for me; when I went back upstairs, I was surprised to see only Pam and Gary at the table. "Where are Jules and Melissa?" I practically growled, knowing that the two of them had probably already gone ahead to prey on some guys—without me. Pam pointed to the glass door behind us, and sure enough, my two lovely colleagues for this assignment, were already sitting at a table with two guys! (Gee, thanks.)

I surveyed the place again, and when the two finally returned to the table, I managed to drag Melissa with me. Might as well get it over with, right? These two guys sitting at a table caught our eyes. I blackmailed Melissa to talking to them first, since she and Jules had, after all, ditched me earlier (she didn't have to know the coward in me was starting to emerge). So we went to their table and the first thing Melissa said was, "Hi, this is my friend Cher" (or at least, that's what I heard). I almost fell to the floor, but all I did was cast her a look of dismay. It took me three seconds to recover from that; then we asked if we could join them. Rafa and Carlos were their names and we got along with them so well that when we told them we had to go, Carlos blurted out in surprise, "Already?" "Yup," I said. "We have to meet our friends downstairs, but we'll try to pass by later on." Cell phone numbers were exchanged and it was adios for now.

We did come back up, as we had promised, but this time it was to break the news: "Hello, we're Melissa and Cher and we're from 2bU!" The boys were flabbergasted. "So everything you've told us about you guys wasn't true?" Carlos presumed. "No! It was all true. It's just that, this is for work," I explained sheepishly. Carlos and Rafa became unusually quiet—well, to us anyway—and suddenly became preoccupied with talking with their friends. Luckily, their friend Popeye spoke up, "The guys thought they were hot stuff when you girls first came up to them." Aha, thank you, Popeye!

We then left for Pravda at around 1 a.m. Like Pier One, it was packed—as usual. Jules met up with some friends who suggested we pick up their friend in a pink shirt who was standing in a corner by himself, sipping a glass of red wine. "Hi!" I piped up, with Melissa behind me. If the guy was surprised at being attacked like that, he certainly didn't show it. His name was "Jay" and he was a basketball player for La Salle. After a bit, his friend Luke joined us—err, I mean, Melissa. I found Jay to be really endearing as he tried his best to keep our conversation going nowhere near null, and he even offered to buy me a drink. We told them we had to go and Jay and I, and Luke and Melissa traded numbers.

After our unexpected bad experience earlier at Pier One, the last thing I wanted to do was break any more "hearts." But work is work so Melissa and I heavily trudged back to the guys. To our surprise, they spoke first, "You're from the INQUIRER?" Luke asked us with a funny expression. Apparently, their friends had taken our difficult task of breaking the news to them. But it didn't become any easier for us. The guys were shaking their heads and again, they thought that everything we had told them earlier was pure fabrication. But when we explained, they good-naturedly accepted it and we all took pictures and continued our chitchat with the rest of the 2bU! gang outside. They did "forget" about their offer of wanting to join us at Pier One afterward though.

I was in touch with the guys for a while, but I'm pretty sure they want to efface every memory they have of us. Before the night began, we had expected to gain some new friends. Instead, we ended up with a bunch of angry guys.

Oh, well, I am never going to do this again. *Cheryl Tiu*

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

Diary of a dating machine

DATING machine. This is how my friends used to describe me years ago. The only time I didn't have a date was on Sundays (well, accompanying me to Mass is technically not a date, right?).

Although there were isolated instances that could have easily become fodder for "the most traumatic date since the advent of time," my dating experience had been relatively hassle-free. I had my anguished moments of unrequited eye contact, but let's just put it this way, guys always overcame their *katorpehan* and always found a way to meet me and sometimes even get my digits. The one and only daring moment of my dating history was when my girl friends and I sent this really hot guy a drink and quickly scampered out of the premises.

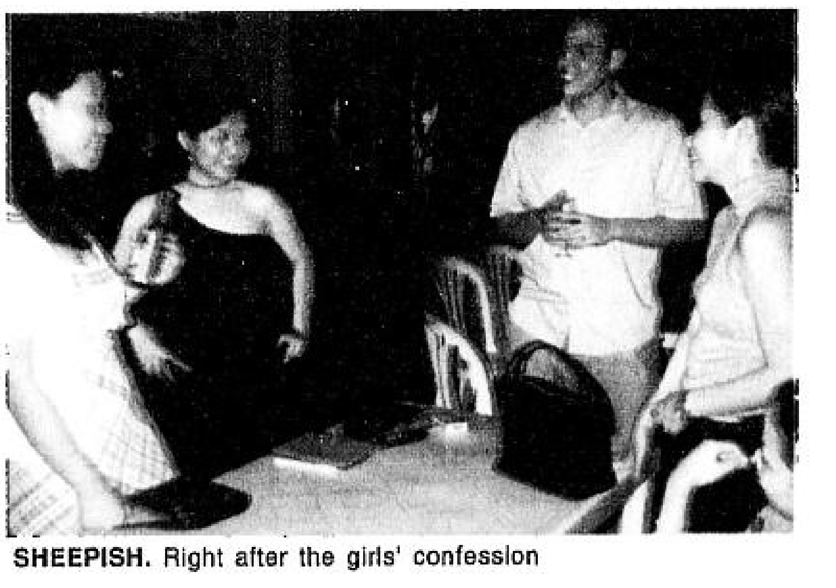
I might have been a "dating machine" before, but I never had to ask any of them to go out on a date or even ask a stranger for his 411. The guys I met before always beat me to the draw. Come to think of it, I never really had the chance or the opportunity to ask. I would have surely asked my boyfriend now for a date when we first met, but then this spirited Blue Eagle swept me off my feet before I could even say, "one big fight!"

So I was really gung-ho when Pam proposed the idea of "picking up" guys in a couple of bars. Not because I was dying to hunt for prey—I am pretty much satisfied with my find, thank you very much. But it had been three years since my last foray in the dating arena. It was really more of wanting to know what was new. I really thought it would be fun—to actually approach total strangers and talk to them and witness their reactions upon finding out that the whole exercise was in the spirit of "investigative" journalism. I mean, I was really curious. Have the rules of dating and hunting changed? Is dating less structured now? Are guys more open-minded now? Are gender roles less defined and inhibiting in this day and age of texting and Internet? Is it actually easier now to find the right person? My mind was brimming with many questions. Besides it was a good excuse to go out without my ever present other half ("It's work, hon, you can't come with me," I told him).

But I still had to "pick up" someone. So I told Cher and Melissa that we should scope first to find our targets. As we were looking around, one thing dawned on me: either I was getting rusty at boy watching or there was an absolute dearth of interesting-looking members of the opposite sex. I mean, there wasn't even anyone who made me go, "Hmmm..." Still, I had a last-minute panic attack once we had chosen the guys we wanted to "pick up." I got so nervous all of a sudden, which is really quite shocking considering how "audacious" I am (read: *kapal*), I was laughing my head off that Pam had to calm me down. The weirdest thing was that I actually made the sign of the cross before going to our first "pick-up" of the night—maybe I was hoping for divine intervention.

I had a permanent goofy grin plas-

HOW/p.D3



SHEEPISH. Right after the girls' confession

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How to pick up guys without really try ing

(From page D2)

tered all over my face as Melissa and I introduced ourselves to Chris and Jake—suffice it to say that I was not exactly a sight to behold. To cover up for my nervousness, I ended up interviewing.

Chris and Jake were friendly and cool and 60 seconds upon meeting them I was calm, cool and collected. As we went back to our table to report to Pam, I felt I was ready for anything. But then I realized that it was more fun watching Melissa and Cher go through the travails of picking up that I just ended up observing.

The whole night was really an eye-opener. This may come as a total shock, but I am glad I am not out there in the dating field hunting for prey. Society may have become more permissive, but this doesn't mean that rules have drastically changed.

In this day and age, eye contact still is considered the first step—in my case, it was squinting since I was too vain to wear my glasses and I had run out of disposable contact lenses.

If anything, the battle of the sexes these days requires a lot of strategy. I mean, forget all these books on rules of dating—read Sun Tzu's "Art of War" instead.

Lines like "Have I met you somewhere?" never worked and up to this day it still doesn't.

It may be de rigueur to wear black in order to pass as fashionable on a night out, but the art of dating has introduced mqre shades of gray. Nothing is ever black or white anymore.

Counterstrike may be the "in" game these days, but everyone is into mind games, especially in the dating field.

Malls give you a lot of random shopping options, but these days one cannot afford to be capricious about dating or finding the right guy. The chances of finding the right guy in a bar are slim to none. And that's looking at the glass half full already.

There is actually some wisdom to what our parents say about how we should wait till we are almost done with school before we go start looking for the right guy or to even just to meet guys.

Cruising for cute guys is fun, but it doesn't necessarily mean that it will lead to the path of finding the right person.

Good judgment does not begin and end with assessing how cool his clothes or his friends are. Wait till you tell him that you are doing an article (or some other exposé-related reason) and make sure you have a camera to capture that Kodak moment.

Guys, single or taken, will grab any opportunity to meet a cute chick, right, Cher?

Whoever said nagging and whining were invented by women has not crossed paths with some guys we met. Gary, our demented designated driver, is a prime example. He redefined the aforementioned traits when we could not find Advantix film. When these two guys were told of our little journalistic mission, they folded and yakked like hyenas.

It is more difficult now more than ever to be single in a double-digit society.

And lastly, warts and all, no one ever comes close to half of how great my boyfriend is.

Jules Alcantara

Night of discoveries

DISCOVERY No. 1. There I was at G4 on a Saturday night, just glad to have the chance to hang out with friends, when Pam dropped the bomb and told me about the whole idea of what we were going to do for the night. Quickly, my idea of a simple night out became an exciting adventure.

Discovery No. 2. I was initially quite excited, but later on I started to have reservations. As I was driving the rowdy bunch around Makati trying to look for a film (See Discovery No. 3), I started to realize that any number of things could go wrong that night. We could get into trouble. We could meet up with the wrong people. I was the oldest and also the only guy. What was I going to do if something went wrong? Crack jokes and hope they get cramps? I mean who am I kidding? This can get serious! It's a discovery because I realized that I actually have to be (gasp) responsible for them. Later on I think I managed to say something about having to be able to "handle themselves," something or other. I think it was my pathetic way of saying, "Please don't get into trouble because I wouldn't know what to do!" Man, I feel old.

Discovery No. 3. Jules has got to have the most high-tech camera in the country. Man, it is sooo state of the art that you can't even buy film for the darn thing, even after we scoured four convenience stores up and down Makati Avenue!

Discovery No. 4. At a certain point after we just arrived at Pier One, we were actually getting comfortable just sitting there blabbering the night away. I thought that the girls were going to use this chance to worm out of their assignment. Boy, was I wrong. Inevitably a moment of silence came. In the span of a few seconds I saw the mood change from something like, "Oh, my God, I don't think I can do this!" to "Enough with the chitchat! Let's get it on!" Okay.

Discovery No. 5. Well, this wasn't really a discovery but more of a confirmation about my continuing inability to determine what kind of guy girls like. As our radars began checking, I attempted to volunteer a few specimens I thought acceptable. Naturally these were quickly turned down by Pam's head-shaking, thumbs-down "Ewww!" look, which if contested would bring about the "I-am-the-sun-and-the-planets-revolve-around-me-so-shut-up" look. Fine. Later on in the evening I was given a taste of what they thought was "cute." Okay, if you have to ask, I think he looked like a dork. Nice shirt, though.

Discovery No. 6. The first guys they picked were really cool. Frankly, either out of excitement or we just plain forgot, I admit none of us ever thought how this would affect the guys we would meet. We just knew rather than hoped that the fun we were having would just infect them as well. Asked how they felt after being told this was for an assignment, basically they just said, "*Oks lang*. Cool!" and smiled sincerely. This, of course, did not prepare us for the others.

Discovery No. 7. Apparently the next guys we chose were offended that they were chosen to be subjects. I mean, imagine you're a guy with your buddies at a bar, without dates. Here are three pretty girls who approach you and say they want to hang out. What can possibly be cooler than that?

Frankly, the whole thing makes me feel a little embarrassed about my gender. The first guys we met, upon hearing this, said the coolest thing of the night. "*Bakit naman? Ang babaw naman no'n*!" I told you they were cool.

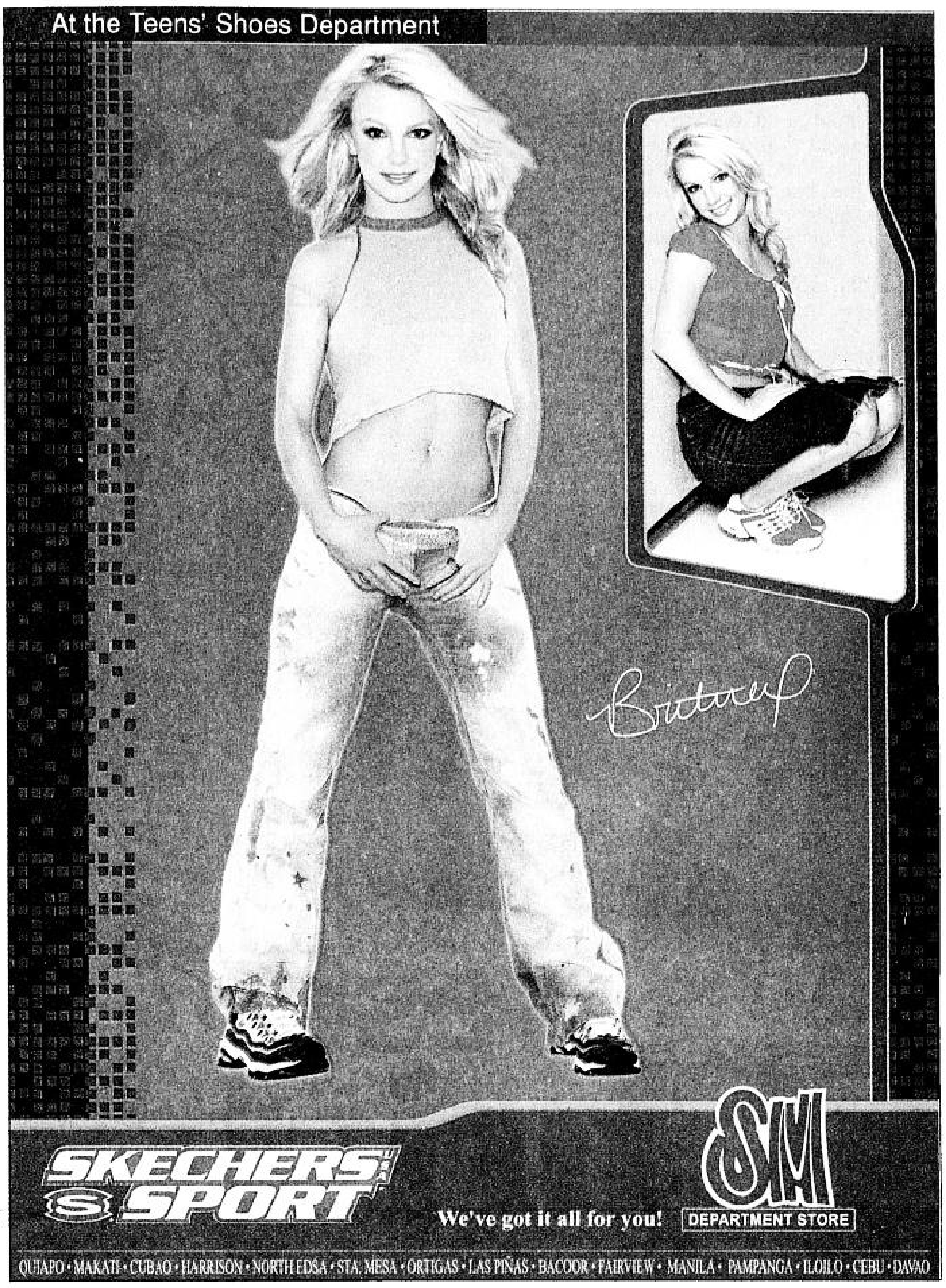
Discovery No. 8. We shrugged that off and moved on to Pravda. Sitting inside the car in front of the place at 1:30 a.m., we went through a quick briefing, which went something like, "See that place? Guys are in there. In the name of lifestyle journalism, go get 'em!" I park and they're off. Later on, I wished that the guys they met had heard us say that, particularly the "lifestyle" part. Not only did the girls come back with guys who didn't appreciate the whole thing, but I would go so far as to say they were actually peeved. I overheard one of them say, "*Na*-'Wow-Mali' *kami*!" Huh? Why? We're in lifestyle, meaning it's fun and not an exposé. Unless, of course, they were planning something that they'd rather hide?

In the car as we drove off, one of the guys in the first batch texted one of the girls. It went, "Hey, can we be friends?" To which one of the girls shrieked and said that "Awww, that's so sweet!" Any guy can recognize another dude putting on the moves a mile away. And it was working. Now, that's the way, man. Why didn't the other guys see that?

Discovery No. 9. Later on we sat and talked about the night. We were all really bushed. Melissa was worried that the last two sets of guys acted the way they did. Cher wondered how they would write about what was essentially a bad experience. Jules was texting her (probably fuming) boyfriend while joining Pam in saying that for all intents and purposes, it was a success as we had enough material to write about for a month. We all agreed. As I took them home the mood went like this: "That was fun. Let's do more stuff like that again."

Gabriel Mercado

E-mail the author at freeurmnd@hotmail.com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Heno de Pravia

Over
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worth of prizes to be won

Winning Image Models get P100,000 cash each.

1. Open to male/female aspirants, 16 to 35, single or married. Previous winners are not qualified to join the search.
2. Attach 1 close-up (3R, most recent) color photo to any of these proofs of purchase:
   - One (1) empty Heno de Pravia (HDP) Soap Pack (135 g. or 180 g.)
   - Two (2) empty 90 g. HDP Soap Packs
   - One (1) empty HDP Skin Whitening Soap/Cream Pack
   - One (1) back label of HDP Deo Roll-on Active Plus
   - One (1) back label of Heno de Pravia Agua de Colonia

   On the empty pack, print your name, address, phone numbers and signature.
3. If you're sending a back label, stick it at the back of the photo. Write your name, address, phone numbers, and signature on a separate piece of paper.
   Mail entries to:

   HENO DE PRAVIA
   Search for Image Models 3
   P.O. Box 19400 San Juan, MM

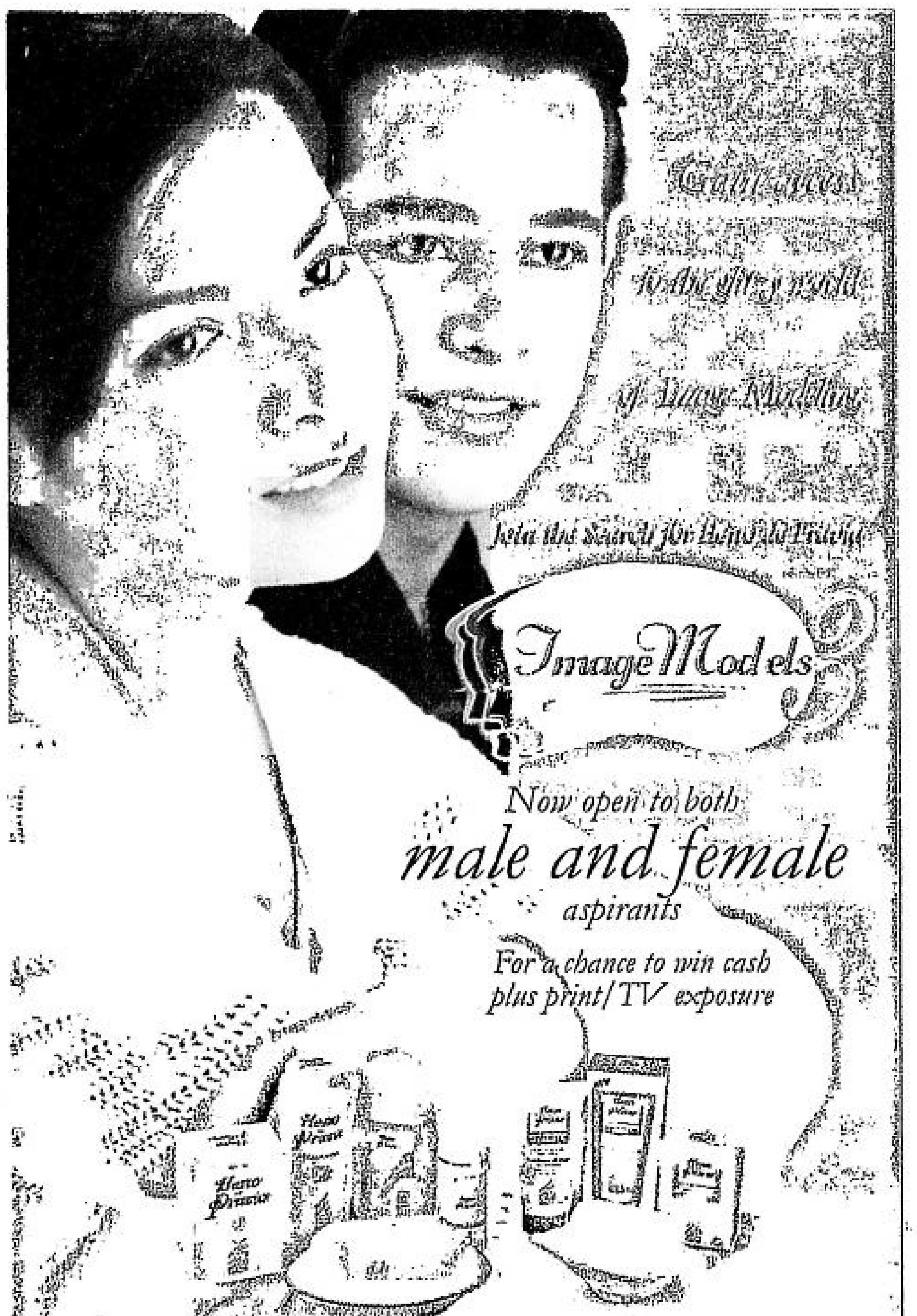
Lucky Searchers can win P30,000 worth of prizes.

1. Attach 1 close-up (3R, most recent) photo of your Image Model to any of the above-mentioned proofs of purchase.
2. At the back of the photo, print the name of your Image Model candidate. On the empty pack, print your name, address, phone nos. and signature. Mail entries to the address above.

Lucky Senders can win up to P60,000.

1. Lucky Senders are entries without photos attached, and are eligible only for the 3 bimonthly draws of P20,000 each. Write your name, address, phone nos., and signature on any of the above-mentioned HDP proofs of purchase. Mail entries to the same address.
2. Non-winning Image Model and Lucky Searcher entries are also qualified for the draws. So send as many entries as you can!
   - *Entries must be received at least 5 days before the screening/draw dates: (1st) Jan. 16, 2002, (2nd) Mar. 18, 2002; (3rd) May 16, 2002*

In cooperation with:
HORIZON EDSA HOTEL



PROMO DETAILS:
The nationwide promo runs from Nov. 17, 2001 to May 17, 2002

Pre-screening for qualifiers:
All entries received will be screened by client, agency, and DTI rep. every 2 mos. The bimonthly Lucky Sender winner will be drawn from the Lucky Sender and non-winning Image Model/Lucky Searcher entries.

Criteria for pre-screening:
Photogenic quality and image projection - 50%
Beauty (*For males: Appeal*) - 50%
Must possess a beautiful (or handsome) face with clear complexion.

Selection of Finalists:
Only 10 final candidates (5 males, 5 females) who meet the cut-off score of 85% will be chosen for the final judging.

Final Image Model candidates and their Lucky Searchers (if any) will be notified by registered mail. They must confirm their participation on or before May 24, 2002.

The Lucky Searchers will have to show their registered mail and present a valid ID on the screening date.

Final Screening:
The 10 official candidates will undergo VTR and photo sessions on May 31, 2002 at Horizon Edsa Hotel. Judges will determine the official HDP Image Models.

Criteria for final screening:
Personality - 50%
Beauty (Appeal for Males) - 40%
Talent - 10%

Announcement of Winners:
Awarding of Image Model/Lucky Searcher winners will be on June 1, 2002 in one of Manila's prestigious malls.

Prizes:
Image Models: each receives P100,000 in cash *plus P10,000 worth of local & imported Gal products.*
Lucky Searchers (if any): each receives P20,000 in cash *plus P10,000 worth of local & imported Gal products.*
Lucky Senders: each receives P20,000 in cash.

For inquiries, call TACTICA Ads @ 671-9795 to 97

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1721, SERIES OF 2001

De-stressing without busting your eardrums

BY ANNE ROSE A. ELICAÑO
AND MELISSA TELAN
2bU! Correspondents

AFTER A GRUELING week at school or at the office, losing oneself to the vibe of a club is often the perfect release for a lot of people. But, like all things done over and over again, even clubbing can cease to be fun. Sooner or later, the pounding music begins to get on your nerves even as the astronomical prices of entrance fees and drinks can leave you broke.

When that happens, you might want to check out what some people, who are not into clubbing, do to de-stress. These are the ones who do not think it is fun to blow air *besos* to people they hardly know and to conduct a decent conversation with friends by trying to be louder than the music blaring from 10 huge speakers.

Unwinding after a hard day or week does not have to cost you your sense of hearing

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

So what alternative gimmicks are there to help you unwind?

Mini-golf

Leave the golf cart, the gawky golfer hats and the spiked shoes at home. Mini-golf does not involve hitting and trailing a ball through 6 hectares of land. Instead, you play in a pocket-sized course that looks like a set for Alice in Wonderland, with lakes the size of puddles and sand traps that look like a kid's sandbox. Cartoonish characters loom on each green.

Playing under a blazing sun is also optional. Some mini-golf places, like Par 43 in the Fort, are open till late at night. In fact, some friends had dinner and a few drinks in the Fort's bars/restaurants and then played at Par 43 afterward. Although all were non-golfers, they had a blast...and only for the price of P100 each (P130 on weekends). It can get quite crowded on weekends, though, and power swings à la Tiger Woods, which you probably have been dying to do) are not allowed on the miniature greens.

Comedy club

If you believe that humor is the best medicine, then a live comedy show is for you. Punchline on Quezon Avenue will give you good value for money. Its P75 entrance fee guarantees you barrels of laughter and a fun-filled evening. Open from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. every day, this club introduces fresh talents regularly to the viewers' delight.

But you should fortify yourself with a well-developed sense of humor. Comedians sometimes try to elicit laughter by picking on members of the audience. Be sure you are able to cope being the butt of jokes and to roll with the punches. Still, it's all good, clean fun.

Gimmick cost: P250.

Punchline is at 1399 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Call 373-3541.

Karaoke

Singing seems to be indispensable to being Pinoy. We sing during celebrations, and politicians sing during campaign rallies. But since singing is not something you can do anytime and anywhere the spirit moves you, we turn to KTVs (karaoke TV) to indulge our fantasies of being another Mariah Carey or Ricky Martin. Never mind that the videos do not match the songs (five people windsurfing to "Eternal Flame") or that the lyrics flashed on screen are not always correct. Somewhere in the innermost psyches of many of us is the urge to belt out cheesy songs from the '80s, and KTVs are perfect venues for that.

Since singing by your lonesome isn't any fun, it is best to go to a KTV on a gimmick with friends. Who knows, it can turn out to be the ultimate bonding experience. People learn how to share (the microphone) and, as your elementary teacher used to say, "give chances to others." Moreover, you realize that once you've sung in front of your friends, you will gain the courage to do *anything* (no matter how humiliating) in front of them.

Gimmick cost: At least P300 although it really depends on the number of people and the time you spend.

Check out I.O. on Jupiter Street, Makati City.

Jazz club

Monk's Dream is not just for jazz aficionados. It is a place for people tired of the usual rave, rock and pop music blasting their eardrums. The P300 consumable entrance fee gives you good, authentic jazz music and reasonably priced food and drinks. You will find that money is well spent here as the bar features a top-quality lineup of bands.

Gimmick cost: At least P300.

Monk's Dream is at 2/F Jupiter Place, 136 Jupiter St., Makati City.

E-mail the authors at melissatelan-@yahoo.com and at anario@lycos.com

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New book focuses on the joys of being a teenager

IMPRESSIONABLE. Immature. Zany. Zestful. Budding. Confused. Out-of-place. These are words often used to describe teenagers. How about happy? Not quite. Teenagers are rarely described as happy.

For this reason, the subject of teenage happiness' took on a dynamic force when successful book author Andrew Matthews chose to deal with this in his latest book, "Being a Happy Teenager."

Matthews, author of "Being Happy" and "Follow Your Heart," comes up close with the youthful life force of Filipino teenagers when he comes here on Nov. 24-30 for the Philippine launch of "Being a Happy Teenager."

Matthews keynotes the "Being a Happy Teenager" motivational/inspirational conference at the On Stage, Greenbelt, Makati, on Nov. 28. Some 1,000 students and adults are expected to attend. Registration starts at 1 p.m. Program starts at 3 p.m.

He will also conduct book-signing in leading bookstores in the country, appear in various TV programs as guest, visit a youth center in Metro Manila and hold press encounters at the Westin Philippine Plaza, the official hotel for the program series.

An encounter with Matthews, either through the book "Being a Happy Teenager" or through his talks, recasts teenagers' approaches to dealing with problems and disappointments, friendships, schools and in perceiving themselves.

Matthews evolved his "gentle philosophy" on happiness, starting off with a fascination on the quest for happiness of his clients as portrait painter. His clients included surgeons, lawyers and corporate heads. He read widely and talked to many people as part of his quest for answers.

At the age of 30, Andrews began writing and illustrating his own books. His first book, "Being Happy," was released in 1988 and topped the best-seller lists in more than 30 countries. Other bestsellers that followed included "Follow Your Heart" and "Happiness in a Nutshell."

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SPECIAL PROJECT

17th Philippine Advertising Congress

NOVEMBER 22-24, 2001 ■ WATERFRONT HOTEL, LAHUG, CEBU CITY

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
LITA PASCUAL, Account Manager

PAC puts market right on target

NO MUDSLINGING competition between administration and opposition but the pressure is on the two important realities: the marketing battle of the new millennium is the "battle of the brands" and the consumer is an important building block in attaining market success. Our business aims to gain over the competition, the kind that builds huge market share at the end of the day when the boss asks how your brands perform in the fierce marketplace. In the complex business environment, whoever gets the biggest number of votes from consumers wins. Companies offering products and services, well-known or not, run as independent in the race. Given this intensified focus, we need new concepts to help us manage brands with strategic precision, aiming them to the right people at the right time.

The 17th Philippine Advertising Congress is slated to be an exciting convention this millennium, to gather our *ka-partido sa industriya* to focus on the official agenda, Target: Market, Asintado sa Pinoy Ngayon. The theme couldn't be more timely.

Experience shows that the bucks allocated for ad spending just to reach out to "non-target customers" turns to a waste. Why? Because the biggest impediment to the development of communication strategies is the belief that you have to be appealing to everybody. No longer. In its effort to keep the participation truly at its worth, the year's congress seeks to achieve one objective: to teach us how to focus and narrow our scope to our target market.

Target: Market will teach us how to differentiate consumers by segmenting them into groups: young kids, teens, yuppies, OCWs and gray groups. Instead of pursuing the mass audience, you learn how to forge a close relationship to a more specific audience. It's the depth of relationship that counts, not the breadth (quantity) of them.

The 17th PAC hopes to draw its real "target market": members of the advertising board, marketing and communication students and professors, CEOs, business executives and of course, the admen festooned in Makati and Ortigas office pods. Representatives will learn how to understand their niche, have an in-depth examination of consumers' thoughts, lives and details behaviors through a variety of lenses. What do kids think and buy these days? The "Kids Buy the Darndest Things" session will focus on children as consumers. All the myths and truths of the teens market will delved in detail in "The Next Generation: Malalim or Mababaw." Technophiles will have a grand time learning more about convergence in "May mouse ka na, may ka-chat at ka-text pa." "Dollar Spender, Peso Spender," a session on overseas contract workers, will focus on the spending habits of their families and how such spending impact the national economy. The gray group, with all their needs, will be discussed in a session called "Lolo't Lola kong madatung." An interesting session will be devoted on entertainment as showbiz geniuses face a panel of interviewers from advertisers and ad agencies in "Paano ba Magpapatok."

TARGET: MARKET
Asintado sa Pinoy ngayon
www.philadcongress.com

So come to the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress, learn the newest ideas, grasp the innovative development and see how your brands in the marketing poll results fly!

How to survive the 17th PAC

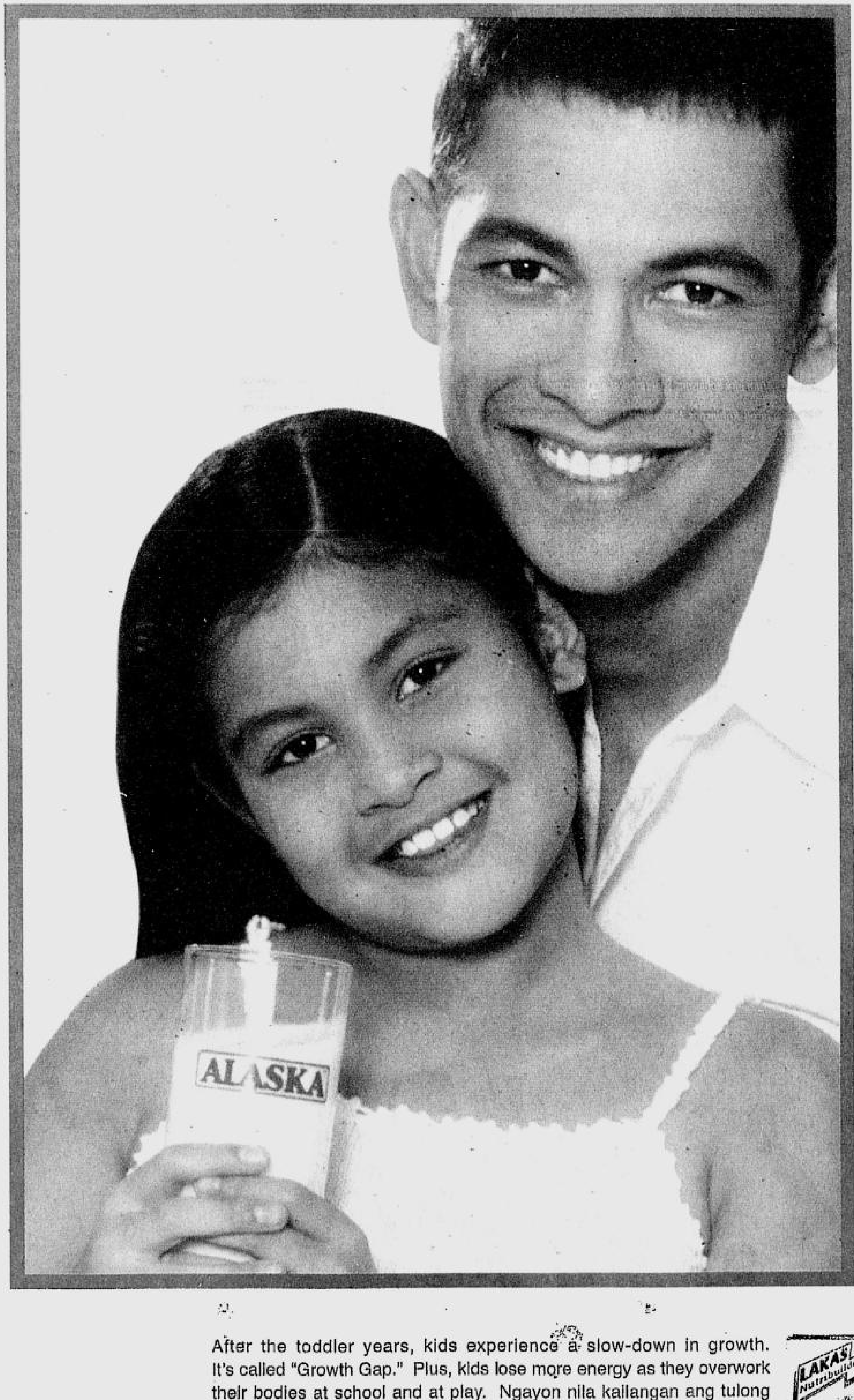
UPON your arrival at the Mactan Airport, go through the designated exit at the arrival area of the Mactan airport. This exit is exclusively for Congress delegates. Proceed to the outdoor garden, which will serve as a holding area for welcoming VIPs and Congress delegates. Directorial signs will be posted to lead to these areas. Congress ushers/usherettes will also provide assistance at the airport. Shuttle buses will be provided to transport delegates to Waterfront Hotel for registration, initially, then to their respective accredited hotels. For delegates arriving after Nov. 21, please proceed straight to Waterfront Hotel for registration before you go to your respective hotel. Important: picture taking is not allowed at the arrival and departure areas of the airport.

Registration

Registration will be at the Waterfront Hotel Lobby with the following schedules: Nov. 21, Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Nov. 22, Thursday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Delegates coming after Nov. 22 will proceed to the Ad Congress Secretariat for registration. Proceed to the desk of your respective association to register. Sign the registry and claim your Congress ID and kit. In case you are coming in to Cebu after 9 p.m. Nov. 21, please proceed

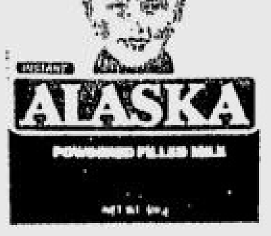
HOW TO/ E2

"What could be more important than generation gap? Growth Gap."
Gary Valenciano and daughter, Kiana, 8 yrs. old



After the toddler years, kids experience a slow-down in growth. It's called "Growth Gap." Plus, kids lose more energy as they overwork their bodies at school and at play. Ngayon nila kailangan ang tulong ng superior nutrition ng Alaska, the most nutritious powdered-filled milk. Para pagdating sa "Growth Gap," walang tatalo sa mga anak natin.

Sa sustansya't lasa,
WALA PA RING TATALO SA



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Asintado sa Pinoy ngayon
PHILIPPINE DAILY

SIGNING UP the Philippine Daily Inquirer as one of the meal sponsors of the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress at the Manila Hotel. Shown are ways and means chair Gil Chua of AMA-DDB Philippines, Inquirer VP for advertising Felipe Olarte, finance director Jun Alcantara of Asia Brewery, Inquirer president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, overall chair Pedro N. Dy-Liacco and vice chair Angelica P. Suiza of Penshoppe.

Asintado sa Pinoy ngayon

NESTLE PHILIPPINES AS MAJOR SPONSOR

From left are Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, ways and means chair Gil Chua, Nestle Philippines director of communications Noy Dy-Liacco, vice chairman Angelica Suiza and finance director Jun Alcantara.

Asintado sa Pinoy ngayon

KODAK PHLIPPINES LTD AS MINOR SPONSOR

From left are ways and means chair Gil Chua, overall chair Noy Dy-Liacco, Kodak business manager for entertainment imaging Jane Albito, vice chair Angelica Suiza and finance director Jun Alcantara.

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How to survive . . . (From page E1)

directly to your assigned hotel and register the following day.

Accommodations

Present your hotel accommodations vouchers to your respective hotel desks to claim your room key and to accomplish hotel vouchers. The voucher will also serve as an acknowledgement receipt of your hotel payments. An information assistant desk will help you with your other hotel requirements. Each hotel will be provided with an information assistance desk manned by congress personnel. Check in time is 12 noon, starting Nov. 21. In case you are arriving in Cebu before 12 noon of Nov. 21, there are assigned areas in the various accredited hotels for delegates checking in the morning of Nov. 21. For those booked in accredited hotels, please note that your Congress payments only cover accommodations for the days/nights you have accredited. If there are any additional expense e.g., laundry, phone calls, food, additional night stay etc. Please settle your personal bills before checking out of the hotel. Please observe your respective hotel house rules.

Airlines rebooking arrangement

All changes in flight schedules after the tickets have been delivered to you i.e., any rebooking arrangements, will have to be done on a personal basis. The PAC Secretariat will not accept rebooking arrangements for Cebu bound flights. Rebooking of airline flight schedules back to Manila will be entertained only from Nov. 21 to 22, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for free. Arrangements should be made at the airline courtesy booth immediately upon arrival at Waterfront Hotel.

Congress meals

Regular delegates are entitled to all official congress meals: three breakfast, three lunches and four dinners at designated places upon presentation of the proper meal stub. Student delegates are not entitled to the official meals. However, the congress has provided a Student's Café in Waterfront Hotel where student delegates may order packed lunches on cash basis only. Only light snacks will be served during scheduled coffee breaks.

Special events

Other information relating to the Congress such as events for the day, optional tours etc. may be obtained from the Congress Information Center at the Secretariat Office.

What isn't free

Other meals outside of Congress hosted meals including room service and mini-bar consumption shall be charged to individual accounts. Other charges such as laundry, telephone calls, medicines, etc. shall likewise be charged to the individual account. "No shows and early departure" shall be charged for the remainder of the room nights previously reserved. There shall be no funds due to the "No shows or early departure". All other personal charges must be settled upon departure checkout. Credit line transactions may be honored by the hotel anytime. 17th PAC shall not underwrite any unsettled bills of the delegates.

Check-out

Check-out time ins 12 noon of Nov. 25. All personal accounts must be settled with your respective hotels on or before 12 noon to avoid delays. Extensions beyond the Congress duration must be made upon check-in of delegate.

Goodies and freebies

Each delegate is entitled to one Congress kit which will be issued upon registration. The Congress kit contains the following items: delegate's ID, meal stubs, map of Cebu, survival tips flyer, ballpen, note pad, pocket diary, personal care kit, lighter, electronic organizer, telephone directory and fan. Plus other giveaway items from various companies. Take care of your Congress ID's and meal coupons. The ID will serve as entrance to all plenary sessions. No ID, no entry. Lost ID will be placed upon payment of P200. Meal stub collectors will strictly enforce the No meal stub, no meal rule.

Transportation

Air-conditioned buses will be provided to shuttle delegates from Cebu Domestic Airport to the Waterfront Hotel and other Congress accredited hotels and/or the various official Congress functions. Shuttling schedules will be available separately. Please check the announcement board at your hotel lobby. Shuttling schedules shall be strictly followed. Please be at the designated pick-up point at least ten minutes prior to the scheduled departure. Latecomers shall not be responsibility of the 17th PAC. Wear your Congress ID;s to ride the shuttle buses.

Security

The hotel provides in-house security for the safety of all its scheduled-in guests. Do not leave valuables, credit cards, money, jewelry, etc. lying around in your rooms. Almost all hotel rooms are provided with mini safes. Likewise, you can request for a safety deposit box from the hotel'sfront desk, free of charge. Nevertheless, please take your own precautions: Do not leave your bags and valuables unattended anywhere in the hotel. Be extra vigilant with your phones, personal digital planners, computers, cameras and other equipment. The Congress organizers and the hotels will not be liable for their loss or damage. Upon checking in, locate the nearest fire exit from your room. In case of fire, do not panic. Leave the room and get out of the building immediately. Do not use elevators.

Before leaving Manila

Check your airline tickets for your flight schedules and hotel vouchers for your accommodations before leaving Manila. Fill up your luggage tags completely. Attach those tags (corresponding to your hotel) to your bags and other luggages. The tags will identify the hotel where their bags should be brought in case of any problems.

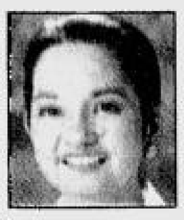
PRIMAX Broadcasting will be one of the transportation sponsors for the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress organized by the Advertising Board of the Philippines and hosted by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) on Nov. 21 to 24 at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City. Shown during the contract signing, from left, were Congress ways and means committee chair Gil Chua, Congress overall chair Noy Dy-Liacco, Primax president Lito Yabut and Congress finance director Jun Alcantara.

AR ET MARKET
n sa oy ng

PLDT AS MAJOR SPONSOR

Seated (from left) are overall chair Noy Dy-Liacco, PLDT AVP for marketing services Raul Alvarez, vice chair Angelica Suiza and finance director Jun Alcantara. Standing (from left) are Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, ways and means chair Gil Chua, PLDT senior manager for media Dodie Lucas and marketing analyst Charlene Lim.

MESSAGES



I TAKE this distinct opportunity to congratulate the organizers, participants and sponsors of the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress.

Once again, advertisers, advertising agencies, the media, production houses, marketing researchers, and other communications specialists are given the opportunity to plot the course of Philippine advertising in particular, and renew the Philippine's competitive edge amongst our neighbors in this industry in general.

Given the current global climate and market contraction, we must refocus our collective energies towards identifying strategies and opportunities that will continue to strengthen the Philippines. I believe that with the participation of your industry we will be able to achieve economic milestones before 2004.

The advertising industry has been a constant contributor to Philippine economic growth and I wish to encourage every participant in this event to take this in mind as you discuss, strategize and develop your respective corporate programs for the year 2002. Keep in mind that we in the government consider your industry as a partner in creating a climate conducive to business and progress in our country.

Rest assured that my administration is focused on poverty alleviation, long term development and economic progress that will benefit the citizens of our nation for the coming generations. In keeping with the spirit and theme of your congress, I declare: "Asintado ang Gobyerno sa Pilipino Ngayon!"

Mabuhay at maraming salamat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

MY WARMEST felicitations to the members of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) for hosting the 17th Advertising Congress of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) on Nov. 21-24, 2001.

"Target: Market, Asintado sa Pinoy Ngayon," the theme of this year's congress is appropriate. In all of 27 years, the AdBoard has never failed to accurately portray the Filipino consumer and to formulate effectual techniques to gratify his desires. I commend Pana for hosting this prestigious congress as advertising will certainly play a very significant role in harnessing the full potential of globalization to our nation's advantage.

Indeed, this influential assemblage will as well provide opportunities to the participants to foster camaraderie and expand their business network. It will be a venue to gain knowledge indispensable in this Age of the New Economy which is propelled primarily by the rapid changing world of technology. In this exceptionally trying time, this gathering will indeed offer much-needed implements for survival.

I exhort the distinguished members of Pana to persevere in all their worthwhile undertakings of this magnitude, as this will redound to the betterment of the nation.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA JR.
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

OUR WARMEST felicitations to all participants, cooperators, supporters and guests of the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) as hosted by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) on Nov. 22-24, 2001 at the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City under the theme "Target: Market, Asintado sa Pinoy Ngayon."

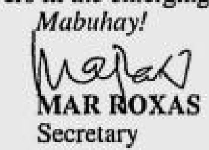
It is heartening to note that the 17th Congress focuses the industry on today's Filipino consumer, who they are, what they have become, how they have changed or how they have stayed the same, and seeks to take a more insightful look at our consumers from varying professional points of view, thereby challenging pre-conceived notions and stereotypes and finding the most effective ways to communicate with them.

With its broad-base membership with the power to project catchy messages, the advertising sector is at the vantage position to influence the many things that consumers and businessmen think and do. Among Filipinos, it can foster basic values that make for a progressive country. To the outside world, it can highlight what is positive, attractive and noteworthy about the country and the Filipino citizenry. Indeed, advertising represents a potent force for shaping the mindset of Filipinos and foreigners alike towards boosting investor confidence and prospects for business growth and development in our country.

I am confident that the Philippine advertising industry will continue to emphasize ads whose themes revolve around a self-reliant citizenry and workforce who have the fighting spirit to initiate things on their own and willing to work hard to become globally competitive players in the emerging borderless world economy.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry



GREETINGS!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the City of Cebu to the participants of the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress of the Advertising Board of the Philippines which will be held on Nov. 21-24, 2001.

I would like to commend the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) for hosting the Congress. The congress' theme "Target: Market Asintado sa Pinoy Ngayon" brings the industry's focus to today's Filipino consumer. It is my hope that in finding the most effective ways to communicate to the market, the industry will contribute to making a better-informed consumer, who is in turn, a vital force in an economically vibrant community.

I wish you success in this yearly endeavor.

TOMAS R. OSMEÑA
Mayor
City of Cebu

ON BEHALF of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers, I welcome all the guests, sponsors and participants to the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress. This biennial get-together of the marketing communications industry gets underway Nov. 22-24, 2001 at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City.

A journalist, writing about the Congress, asked, what's the Ad Congress all about?

I said that it's all about people in the industry renewing ties with one another. It's about advertisers and agency folks and media suppliers and production people and the research experts getting together as one community. There will be time to learn a few things, hopefully to inspire new ideas on how to renovate or innovate our brands. And there will also be plenty of time to enjoy each other's company.

Is there something to learn from the Congress? The participants ought to be able to gather new insights from the speakers. This Congress has for its theme Target: Market Asintado sa Pinoy Ngayon. The theme is a simple reminder. The consumer's lifestyle has changed. New segments have emerged. Media continues to fragment. Convergence of telecom, broadcast and internet technologies provides an innovation to keep in contact with the consumer, busy texting with one thumb while the other zaps channels aimlessly. Is there life without the remote control?

As marketing communicators, we need to focus on a single task—to delight the consumer. There is really no other choice. Otherwise, the brand will fail to develop a relationship with the consumer. And any marketing effort that fails to develop that relationship—and build it over time—will result in a very short life cycle before the brand entirely loses equity. Then competition takes over.

The Congress, through its theme, is an attempt at a reality check. Do we truly know whom we are talking to? Are we communicating with our target market? Are we building brand equity day after day?

The organizers have put together what promises to be another enjoyable and memorable Congress. No less than the President, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo heads the many special guests who will be with us in Cebu, together with the honorable Cebu Mayor Tomas R. Osmeña, his wife, and Ayala Corporation President Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making the Congress happen—the members of the AdBoard board for their confidence and support, to all the sponsors and most especially to all the members of the various organizing committees for their superb work.

Last but not least, we wish to thank Mayor Tomas R. Osmeña and the City of Cebu, its officials and all the other local officials in the neighboring cities for their wholehearted support of the Congress.

Welcome to the 17th Ad Congress! Have a good time with everyone else in Cebu!

PEDRO N. DY-LIACCO JR.
Chair
17th Philippine Advertising Congress

IT'S HARD to believe this year is almost over. And what a year it has been! I doubt if any of us has witnessed a more dramatic or historic year.

A second people power revolution that overthrew a corrupt administration and installed our second Macapagal in Malacañang. A landmark impeachment trial for the highest office of the land, one of the world's firsts. A failed coup which turned into an unfortunate class war. The Abu Sayyaf kidnappings and the exposé linking Ping Lacson to drugs and kidnap for ransom. And finally, terrorist attacks on US soil which left thousands dead, including hundreds of Filipinos, wreaking havoc on an already weakened economy, here and around the world.

Through it all, as we felt the impact of crisis after crisis on our business, we remained hopeful that the worst would soon be over. We continue to hope and pray for recovery as we end this most challenging year.

It is a feat to have survived 2001, a feat that the industry has turned out in record numbers to rally behind this Congress. For having survived the challenges and making it to this point, let us all congratulate ourselves.

Inspired by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's theme of unity and reconciliation when she assumed office, the AdBoard embarked on that very same thrust going into 2001. The most significant result being the union of Primo and Prado under one superbody, the United Print Media Group. We also sought closer links between the AdFoundation and the AdBoard, best exemplified by AdFoundation chairman Noy Dy-Liacco's acceptance to chair this year's Ad Congress. Kudos to all the people who made these unions possible.

No other event reflects the unity and solidarity of the advertising industry better than the biennial Ad Congress. For it is here that all sectors come together to strengthen the ties that bind, and here that all the different organizations give most generously of their talent and resources to make sure the event is a huge success.

Congratulations to the host organization, Pana, for the fabulous job of pulling it all together.

And to all of you who made it to Cebu, welcome to the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress!

Susan L. Dimacali
SUSAN L. DIMACALI
Chair
AdBoard

For persons with disabilities hope is in the can

WG&A PHILIPPINES
GIVE A CAN
GIVE HOPE

Not too many people know that helping persons with disabilities (PWDs) and saving the environment could be done with just an aluminum can.

That's why WG&A encourages you to be part of its Give a can. Give hope project for Tahanang Walang Hagdanan (TWH). This community outreach program aims to collect discarded aluminum cans that otherwise pollute the environment, and donate them to TWH for recycling into tubes for crutches, wheelchairs and canes for its beneficiaries.

By supporting this project, you're not only helping PWDs lead a productive life. You also rid Mother Earth of non-biodegradable wastes.

YOUR CANNED SUPPORT MAKES THAT FIRST STEP A REALITY.

A project of:
WG&A PHILIPPINES
Serbisyong Tunay!

e-mail: hopeinthecan@wgasuperferry.com

For the benefit of:
Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, Inc.
Jess Docot
Tel. (02) 655-0056 / 655-5036 / 655-4580
Fax (02) 655-0812
e-mail: slev@skyinet.net

Program Partners:
Coca-cola Bottlers Phils. Inc.
Department of Education
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Department of Interior and Local Government
Department of Tourism
Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas
Maritime Industry Authority
Metro Manila Development Authority
Philippine Coast Guard
Philippine Information Agency
Philippine Ports Authority
and other environmentally-concerned individuals, organizations and NGOs in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao

BACOLOD
Woody Wuthrich
Tel.(034) 4354965

CAGAYAN DE ORO
Ed Tiu
(08822) 725406 / 723982

CEBU
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CORON
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COTABATO
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DAVAO
Rudy Duyongco
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DIPOLOG
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DUMAGUETE
Boy Cueva
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DUMAGUIT/KALIBO
Sol Gadong
(036) 2623475

GENERAL SANTOS
Frank Manching
(083) 5524921 / 5524962

ILIGAN
Emily Gadrinab
(063) 2212345 / 2215331

ILOILO
Nelson Pacifico
(033) 3362110

MASBATE
Vicente Lim
(056) 3332373

NASIPIT/BUTUAN
Pompey Verano
(085) 3418874

ORMOC
Calvin Rosellosa
(053) 5619818

OZAMIS
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PALOMPON
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ROXAS
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SURIGAO
Alvin Englis
(086) 2326624/25 / 8265474

TACLOBAN
Jessie Sanblaceno
(053) 3255159 / 3258340

TAGBILARAN
Mike Apas
(038) 4114906 / 2355328

ZAMBOANGA
Leody Suarez
(062) 9915078 / 9911729

SCHEDULE of ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 21

All day **Arrival and Registration**
1:00-5:00 p.m. **Beach Volleyball**
Cebu Plaza Garden Area
7:00 **2001 Congress Welcome Dinner/Wild On Cebu Pary**
Hosted by Radio Mindanao Network & Sunstar Publishing Inc.
Cebu Plaza Garden Area

THURSDAY, NOV. 22

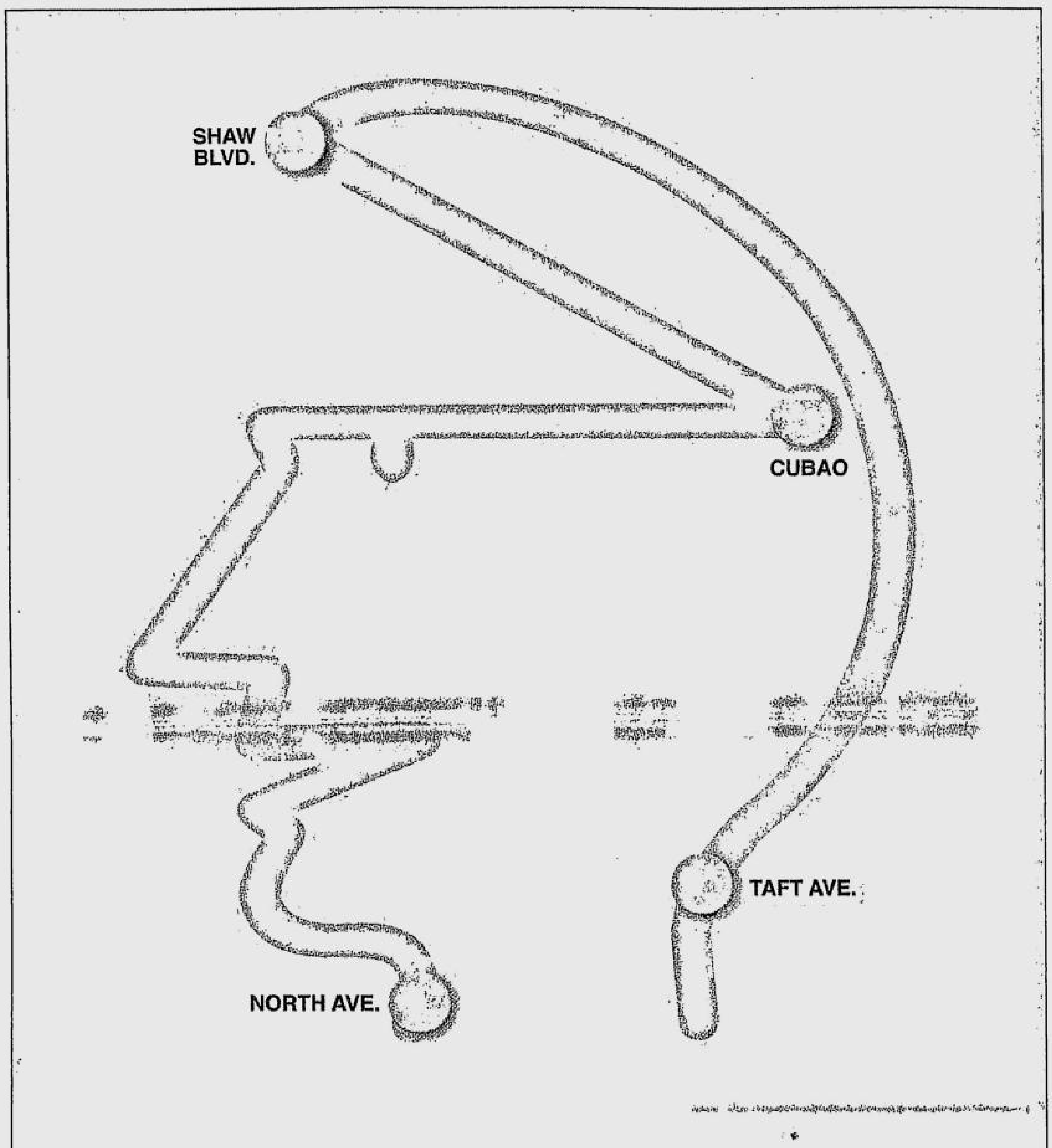
Eduardo G. Sunico, Officer of the Day
6:30-8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**
Hosted by RPN-9
Exhibition Hall 2, Level 2
Waterfront Hotel
8:00-11:00 **Opening Ceremonies**
- **Parade of Colors**
- **Welcome Remarks**
Hon. Tomas R. Osmeña
Mayor of Cebu City
- **Opening Remarks**
Susan L. Dimacali
Chair, Advertising Board of the Philippines
- **Theme Unveiling**
Pedro N. Dy-Liacco Jr.
Overall Chairman, 17th PAC
- **Ungol!**
('Sigaw Ng Mga Walang Tinig'), A Musical Play
Scene 1: Panalangin ng Bayan (Invocation)
Scene 2: Pangungulila
Scene 3: Bangon, Bayan
Scene 4: Narinig Mo Ba Nag Ungol?
Scene 5: Nagbabalik
Finale: Paglaya Mo (Congress Theme Song)
- **Pambansang Awit**
- **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**
Angelica P. Suiza, PANA president
- **Keynote Address**
Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II
President & CEO, Ayala Corporation
Inauguration of Trade Exhibit
Exhibition Hall 1, Ground Floor, Waterfront Hotel
12:00-2:00 p.m. **Luncheon**
Hosted by Philippine Daily Inquirer
Exhibition Hall 2, Level 2
Waterfront Hotel
2:00-2:05 **Presentation of Namfrel Citation to AdBoard**
2:05-3:00 **"Creativity – Asian Perspective"**
Speaker: **Akira Kagami**
Executive Creative Director
Dentsu Inc.
3:00-4:00 **Target Market: Kids Segment**
How Children Behave As Consumers
Speaker:
Alicia M. Pascual
Regional Managing Director
Audits & Surveys Worldwide
Case Study:
Virginia "Virgie" S. Ramos
President
Gift Gate Inc.
Regina B. Navarette
VP-Marketing
Jollibee Foods Corporation
4:00-4:15 **Coffee Break**
4:15-5:30 **Target Market: The Connected Consumers**
Speaker:
Elena P. Van Tooren
MIS Director
AC Nielsen Philippines
Case Study:
Nicanor "Nicky" V. Santiago III
AVP-Marekting Div.
Globe Telecom
Manuel Y. Escosa
VP & Chief Sales & Marketing Officer
Pacific Internet Philippines
Margarita B. Torres
General Manager
Edsa Mall
3:00-7:00 **Sports (Bowling/ Billiard)**
City Sports Club, Ayala Center
7:00 **Dinner**
Hosted by: Viva-Vintage
Exhibition Hall 2, Level 2
Waterfront Hotel
"Who Wants To Be A Millionaire"
Christopher de Leon
Actor/TV Host

FRIDAY, NOV. 23

Cesar Jose C. Jesena, Officer of the Day
5:00-3:00 p.m. **Sports (Golf)**
Golf & Country Club
Aznar Road, Pardo, Cebu City
6:30-8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**
Hosted by Edsa Mall
Exhibition Hall 2, Level 2
Waterfront Hotel
9:00-10:00 **Positioning for Brand Success**
Speaker:
Paul Temporal
Best selling author "Branding in Asia"
10:00-10:15 **Coffee Break**
10:30-11:30 **Creative Guild Presents**
"Ads That Travel – Asian Perspective"
Speaker:
Kim Shaw
Editor-in-Chief
Campaign Brief Asia
11:30-12:30 p.m. **Target Market: The Senior Group**
"The Emerging Gray Market"
Speaker:
Fidela "Sally" Z. Zaballa
President
Feedback Inc.
Case Study:
Cleto Gerardo S. Arnedo
Marketing Manager
Pfizer Phils.
Lizelle Valdecañas
Senior Product Manager
SCA Hygiene Products Corp.
Vitoria G. Belo
Medical Director
Belo Medical Center
12:30-2:30 **Luncheon**
Hosted by Manila Broadcasting Co.
Exhibition Hall 2, Level 2
Waterfront Hotel
2:30-3:30 **Target Market: OCW Segment**
"Dollar Earner, Peso Spender"
Speaker:
Raul N. Esteban
Managing Director & COO
Philippine Survey & Research Center Inc.
Case Study:
Delfin S. Lagdameo
Senior VP
College Assurance Plan
Normita Q. Gimena
Chief Operating Officer
Camella & Palmera Properties Int'l. Inc.
3:30-3:45 **Coffee Break**
3:45-4:45 **One-To-One Marketing**
Speaker:
Tim Tyler
Author
Peppers & Rogers Group (Asia) Pte Ltd
4:45-5:45 **The Best of the Super Ads**
Speaker:
Evelyn B. Generoso
Research Director
Trends-MBL
7:00 **Dinner**
Hosted by ABS-CBN
Exhibition Hall 2, Level 2
Waterfront Hotel

Saturday, Nov. 24

Ramon R. Isberto, Officer of the Day
5:00-7:00 a.m. **Sports (Fun Run)**
Capitol Bldg., Osmeña Blvd.
6:00-7:00 a.m. **Breakfast for a Cause**
Exhibition Hall 2, Level 2
Waterfront Hotel
9:00-11:30 **"Paano Ba Magpapatok"**
Eugenio "Boy" R. Abunda
Top-rating TV Host
Johnny Delgado
Multi-awarded Character Actor
Wilma V. Galvante
Head, Entertainment Group, GMA-7
Jose J. Reyes
Film Director
Rodolfo "Dolphy" V. Quizon
King of Comedy
Vic del Rosario
Top Rated Producer
- **Turnover Ceremony**
Angelica P. Suiza
President, Phil. Association of National Advertisers
PANA to MEDIA (KBP, Print Media group, CAAP, IBA)
- **Introduction of the Special Guest**
Pedro N. Dy-Liacco Jr.
Overall Chairman
17th Phil. Advertising Congress
- **Presidential Address**
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President, Republic of the Philippines
12:00-2:00 p.m. **Luncheon**
Hosted by The Manila Bulletin
Exhibition Hall 2, Level 2
Waterfront Hotel
2:00-4:00 **Student's Forum (A session for future Admen and Current Hotshots)**
Cebu Plaza Hotel Ballroom
A) Creativity in Motion
How do marketing and advertising objectives meet in harmony?
Speakers:
Raul M. Castro
VP/ Executive Creative Director
Lowe Lintas
Melecio S. Domingo
Executive Creative Director
McCann-Erikson
4:00-4:15 **Coffee Break**
4:15-5:15 **B) Success Cases**
What really works in the market place?
Speaker:
Teresita P. Filipinia
President & Chief Creative Officer
Basic Advertising
5:15-6:15 **Anticipated Mass**
Poolside, Waterfront
7:00-8:30 **Awards Night Dinner**
Sports Awards
Best Creative Booth Award
Hosted by GMA-7
Exhibition Hall 2, Level 2
Waterfront Hotel
8:30 **Araw Awards**
Grand Ballroom
Waterfront Hotel
Araw Awards Entry
Hosted by GMA-7
Grand Ballroom
Waterfront Hotel


SHAW BLVD.
CUBAO
TAFT AVE.
NORTH AVE.

The Best Things In Life Are

INQUIRER LIBRE

NEWS, SHOWBIZ, SPORTS, ATBP.,
SA ISANG BASA.

• Balita, impormasyon, pagkakataon, LIBRE! • Sa MRT at LRT, bawat sakay at baba, LIBRE! • 100,000 circulation, first-come, first-served, LIBRE! • Right on target sa utak at puso ng 600,000 Broad C commuters daily, LIBRE! • Maging pinaka-creative sa mga ad layouts, ('yun lang ang hindi LIBRE)

Asintado Pinoy ngayon

RICOH Philippines Inc., makers of Ricoh copiers and fax machines, will be one of the sponsors of the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress organized by the Advertising Board of the Philippines and hosted by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) on Nov 21 to 24 at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City. Shown during the contract signing, from left, were Congress overall chair Noy Dy-Liacco, Ricoh president and chief executive officer Cecil Bien Sebastian and Congress finance director Jun Alcantara. Standing, from left, were Congress ways and means committee chair Gil Chua, Ricoh national sales director August Cruz and Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon.

The connected consumer and other market tales

BY BONG OSORIO, CAPRI

DIFFERENT folks, different strokes. Different markets, different strategies. Different walks, different talks.

The 17th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) to be held at the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City from Nov. 21 to 24, 2001 will focus its sights on the basic issue of target marketing. Various talks on consumer segments or niche markets, and how to deal with them will take center stage as marketing communication experts present their case studies and updated research data. Let me share with you the synopses of what these professionals will talk about, interjected with my own point of view on the subject areas. Here goes.

Marketing to kids

Imagine this. A child wakes up in his Mickey Mouse pajamas, rolls out of his Smiley sheets, his toothbrush, toothpaste, and perhaps even his soap in cute Walt Disney licensed character. Gathering up his Pokemon cards and strapping his Flintstones backpack, he heads off to school. A day in the life of a child smacks of crass commercialism. Of course, all these branded things are personally chosen by him. Indeed, the marketing seduction of kids continue to impact on their choices, appearing in many places, and various activities associated with their lifestyle.

Time and again, research has proven that kids influence decisions on what to buy for themselves and even for other members of the family. They are key decision-makers on more products and services than we can begin to realize, prompting marketing communicators to talk to them directly.

In this age, any effort to address kids competes against a playing field on non-stop cartoons shows on cable TV, text messages, and graphics in cell phones, games and lessons in CD-ROM, activity centers in malls, merchandising gizmos in quick-serve food joints, and traditional and "skills" subjects in learning institutions. Kids' options are many, their activity level is maximum, and their competitive "noise" is higher than ever.

Kids, unlike adults, have shorter attention span. A very busy playing field means lots of choices on which to split precious little attention. In this situation, the perennial marketing challenge of how to create effective communication to children has now become a survival issue. How does one's talking point rise above the clutter?

Research shows that Filipino mothers raise kids in various ways, evolving them into a differentiated market in more ways than one. Alice Pascual, regional managing director of Audits & Surveys Worldwide, will reveal psychographic groupings of moms to illustrate this.

Virgie Ramos, president of Gift Gate, one of the panel reactors, will talk about her marketing experience with the ageless Sanrio and Hello Kitty products whose longevity defies any known product which might have been categorized as a fad.

The equally successful marketers of the no. 1 fast food chain will share the remarkable success they have had. Gina B. Navarette, VP for marketing of Jollibee, will talk about how well they have read the market that they decided to focus their marketing efforts on children.

There are various discussions and researches done on how best to talk to kids, but come to think of it, the most fundamental guidelines still hold true.

- Get them at every point of contact
- Give straightforward and valuable information
- Be honest
- Don't talk down to them
- Humor does work

The connected consumers

The Internet has become an important part of our lives. It has changed everything—the way we work, the way we learn, and what's more, it has done so at far greater speed than the other great disruptive technologies of the 20th century, such as electricity, the telephone, and the car.

While the Internet has slowly crept into our lives, what does it actually deliver?

The presentations of Bing van Tooren, of AC Nielsen/Online, Manny Escosa of Pacific Internet, Margot Torres of EdsaMail, and Nick Santiago of Globe telecom will detail the promise of the Internet, its state in the Philippines today, its use, acceptance and value to the connected consumer. Also included in the discourse will be the ubiquitous cell phone, and the texting phenomenon that continues to take the country by storm.

The distinguished panel of "tech-talkers" will also dwell on other connectivity questions like – what Internet investment will deliver? How do we reach and attract potential Internet customers? Is banner advertising dead? How pervasive is cell phone text usage?

What does the future hold for the connected consumers? With technological convergence upon us, experts say that they will start to demand that every device they will use should be interlinked with each other and the outside world. It should be simple to install and operate, and should be integrated into a single account that tracks their preferences, allows them to use a single password, and sends them a single, understandable bill. They will also demand access to their Internet line, e-mail box, voice mailbox, and account statement, from a wireless phone, personal computer or any other connected device.

At home, the connected consumers will expect the same connectivity, integration and simplicity. On the road, they will ask, using wireless appliances, specific information right here and right now—directions, phone numbers, flight information, stock prices, weather condition, or sports competition results. They will not surf the web while driving or waiting in an airport, but they will pay a premium for anywhere, anytime access to the services they want.

The emerging gray market

In market research, it has been conventional wisdom to exclude respondents who are above 50 years of age because this group is supposed to be of low commercial value to products in the market. Sally Zaballa of Feedback will debunk this myth by showing statistics that prove that the "graying market is commercially viable, and that worldwide, this segment is growing due to the increase in life expectancy.

Zaballa will also share the qualitative studies on the attitudes of the elderly regarding sex. This will be corroborated by Gerry Arnedo of Pfizer when he talks about his experiences in marketing Viagra, a wonder drug indicated for erectile dysfunction, and Ferdie Adriano of Unitrade, as he tells the story about Dr. P, a brand of adult diapers.

The OCW family

It is a known fact that the overseas contract workers (OCWs) make a lot of sacrifices in exchange for the increased income they enjoy working in a foreign land.

Topping the list of reasons they forego the security and warmth of home to the harsh working environment abroad is to earn much more than what they can expect to generate here. This newfound economic empowerment ensures a better future for their children, who are provided with quality education, a decent shelter, some trappings of the good life, and start-up funds for a possible business.

RJ Esteban, managing director of PSRC-RI, will present a scorecard of OCWs worldwide, and make an estimate of the value of US dollars that are remitted annually to their families in the Philippines.

He will also talk about the hazards of working in unfamiliar environments, and reveal the coping mechanisms OCWs have to put into practice to withstand homesickness, and the sometimes hostile workplace.

The use of the marketing insights generated from OCWs and their families will be demonstrated in Del Lagdameo's case study on the College Assurance Plan (CAP), and Normita Gimena's dissertation on the Camella Homes success story.

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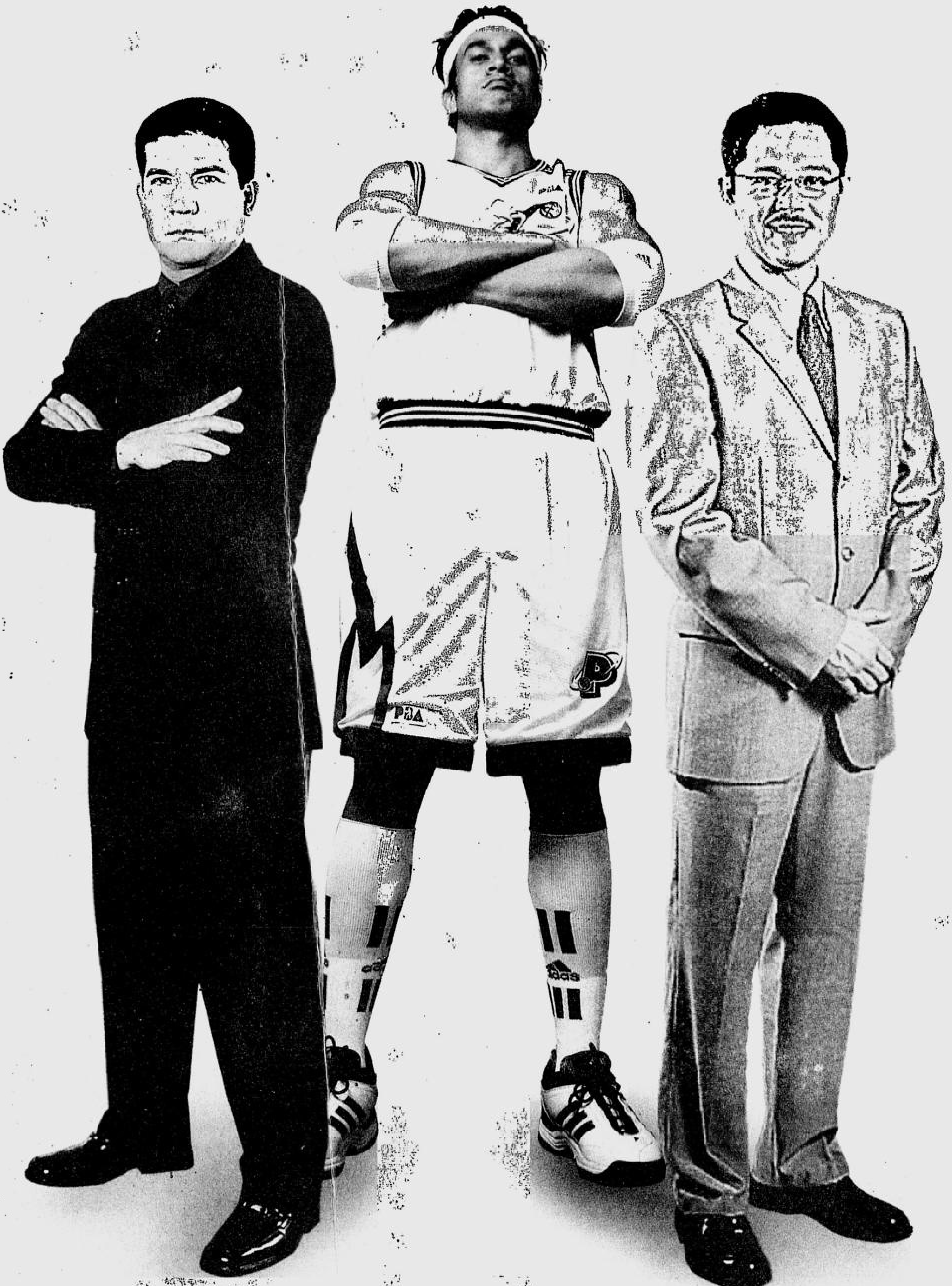

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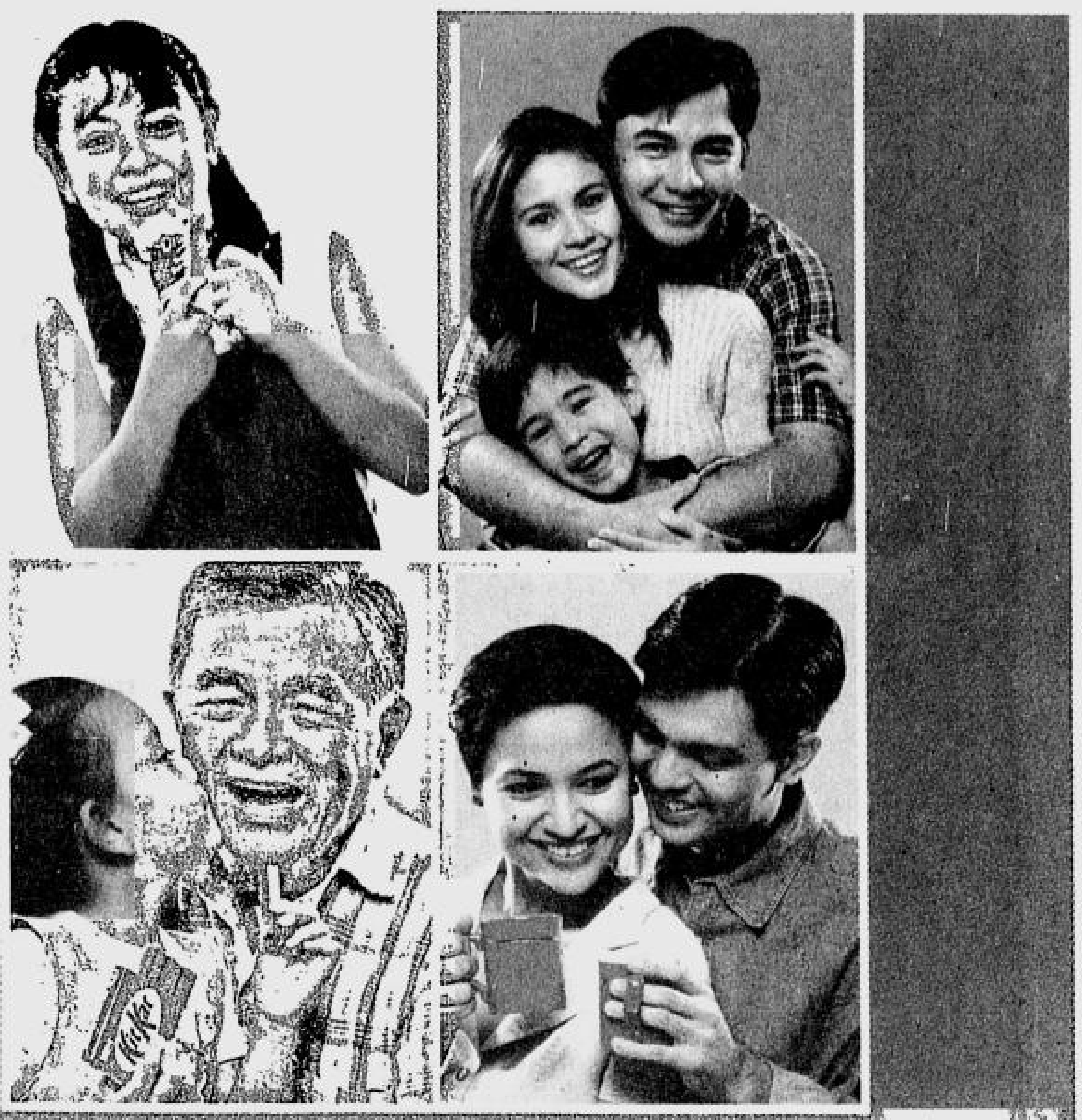
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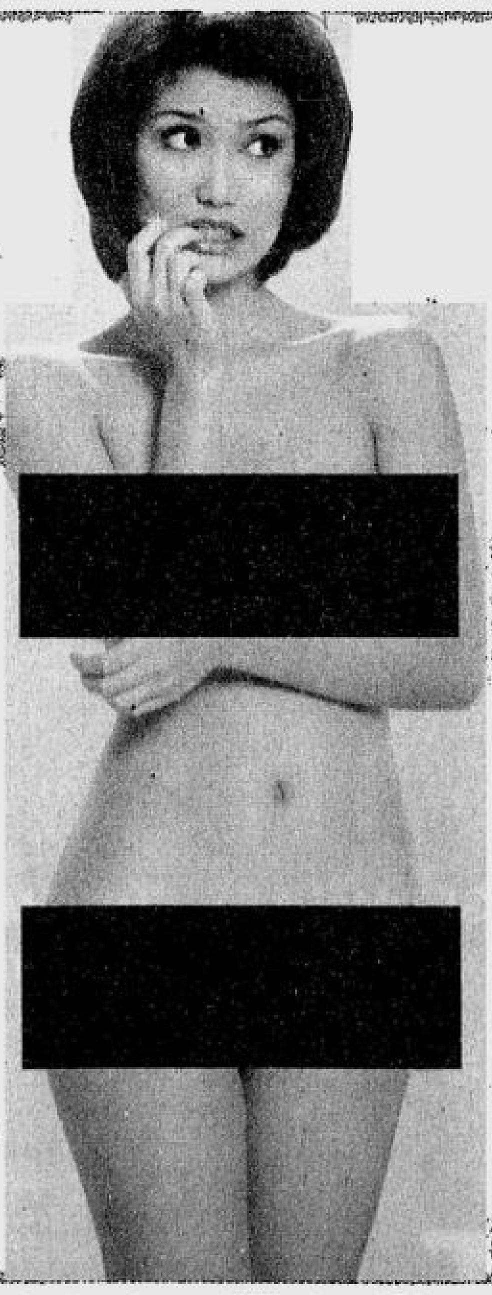
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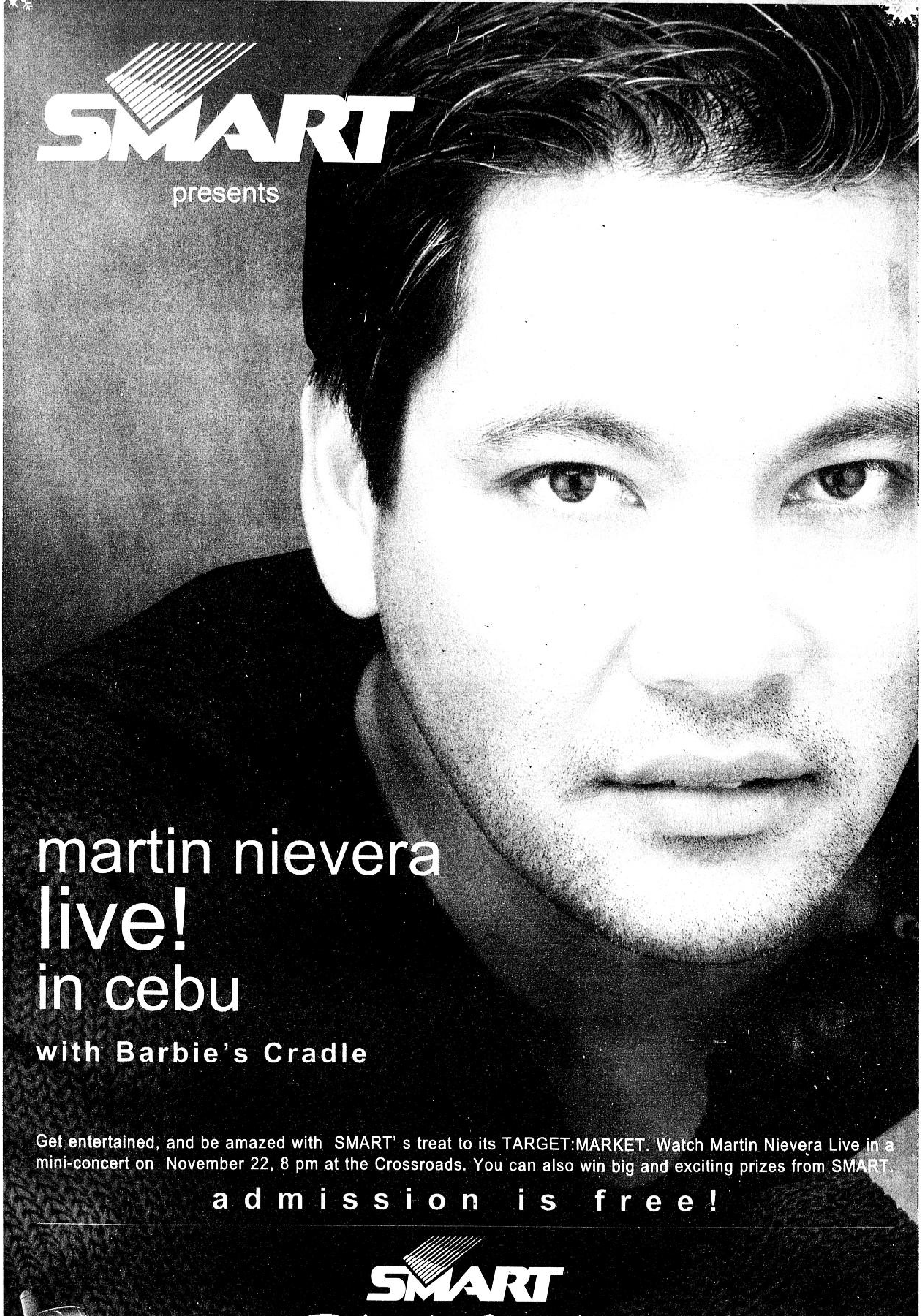

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